Daily Report

Latin America

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C.A. Ministers News Conference 19 Sep

PA221940 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Sep 87

[News conference with Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto of Costa Rica, Ricardo Acevedo Peralta of El Salvador, Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo of Guatemala, Carlos Lopez Contreras of Honduras, and Miguel D'Escoto Brockman of Nicaragua by unidentified correspondents after the meeting of the Executive Commission under the Guatemala agreements; at the Augusto Cesar Silva Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] [Reporter] I would like to ask Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta a question regarding some points of the agreement. For example, have you been able to agree on what democratization means, and, would Nicaragua be persuaded to dissolve mass organizations such as the Sandinist Defense Committees?

[Acevedo] [Words indistinct] democratic processes in Central America and these democratic processes must be verified by the International Verification and Monitoring Commission. [Words indistinct] that must be advanced by all the states that watch for compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement and that must simultaneoulsy go into effect 90 days after the signing of the Esquipulas II document.

Therefore, democratization is an indispensable, fundamental, basic, essential, and necessary element for peace in the region.

In this regard the Salvadoran Government has presented to the International Verification and Monitoring Commission a series of guidelines on what our government understands by democratization so that they may serve as an initial framework for the commission to begin designing a strategy for verifying democratization processes.

It will be this commission and the national reconciliation commissions that will have to analyze all the actions the states carry out in democratization, liberty, human rights, as well as other guarantees having to do with democracy.

[Reporter] We understand, from the news conference held by President Oscar Arias yesterday that he asked Nicaragua . . .

[D'Escoto, interrupting] Look, I want to make an observation: This news conference deals with the meeting of the executive commission. Pardon me for interrupting. The subject is the meeting of the Executive Commission, our work, and the progress that has been made.

[Reporter] Then I will address Foreign Minister Madrigal. You met today with President Daniel Ortega. What was that meeting about? Did you discuss the letter about whether there will be a dialogue about the cease-fire mediated by Cardinal Obando y Bravo?

[Madrigal] With pleasure. Although this does not deal directly with the foreign ministers meeting here, it would be improper for me not to give you an answer. I met with President Ortega and with Defense Minister Humberto Ortega. To respond to your second question, we spoke for a long time and discussed the situation in Nicaragua and Central America. We talked about a letter sent by President Arias to President Ortega, in which my government cordially and respectfully suggested the initiation of a dialogue that could lead to a cease-fire, but not a direct dialogue with the contras, or anything like that. The letter called for a search—through Cardinal Obando y Bravo as mediator with his moral, intellectual, and civic stature—for a way to see how a cease-fire can be established, specifically that.

President Ortega and I talked at length about this matter. He is considering it. Some of the ideas we discussed eventually could inspire President Ortega to send an answer to President Arias and our government in particular.

That is what I can tell you regarding your question.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] I would like to know what the functions of the Executive Commission are and what its relationship is with the functions of the International Verification Commission, please.

[D'Escoto] The Executive Commission was created by the foreign ministers to establish, promote, and plan compliance with the agreements. According to one of those agreements, the foreign ministers belonging to the Contadora and Support Groups, as well as the UN and OAS secretaries general were to be invited to join the International Verification and Monitoring Commission with us, the five Central American countries. This is the first relationship established between the Executive Commission and the International Verification and Monitoring Commission, as stated in Esquipulas II.

As a matter of fact, immediately after the Executive Commission was established in El Salvador, we complied with that part of the agreements. Invitations were also extended to the foreign ministers we mentioned and the secretaries general. We held a meeting in Caracas. The International Verification and Monitoring Commission is obviously an autonomous organization. It is not subordinate to the Central American governments. Therefore, the national reconciliation commissions are not subordinate to the governments either. Each one has the responsibility for organizing its work and reports in any way it deems appropriate. However, as I said, the International Commission is not completely isolated from the Central American governments, because we, the foreign ministers, belong to it. Moreover, the national reconciliation commissions are not completely isolated from the governments of each country, because there is a government representative on each one of them. The document that you mentioned clearly establishes the relationships. The Executive Commission will receive reports from the International Verification and Monitoring Commission. The reports will deal with compliance with the agreements.

[Reporter] [9-second break in reception] . . . that was (?contained) in the agreement you [words indistinct]

[Contreras] Good evening. Thank you. I can reply to your question by saying that Honduras made a commitment under the Guatemala agreement, Esquipulas II, to prevent the use of its territory for launching military or act of harassment against neighboring countries. This commitment is closely linked with other commitments. They must be simultaneously complied with when the 90-day period following the signing of the document expires. In this respect, as long as the other commitments are complied with, Honduran compliance will become easier. I am saying this because a very close connection or relationship exists. If an armed opposition exists, it will obviously seek havens in neighboring countries. If there is a cease-fire and a process of national reconciliation, the armed opposition will clearly cease to exist and to seek havens. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for political domestic agreements to be complied with for compliance with international agreements to be possible. This is my answer to your question. Thank you.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker]In the first place, I must tell you that [words indistinct] you require for your television network, but what I find strange about your question is that it assumes that such a matter had been discussed, and I asked my colleagues to refresh my memory to see if, in effect, such a discussion had taken place. No, such a discussion has not occurred during the last 2 days. Of course, within the process of democratization that must take place in Central America, the lifting of the state of emergency will be considered, and this must happen within the 90-day term that the Guatemala agreement stipulates.

We believe that many of the measures included in the various situations affecting democracy must be modified during this 90-day period, and we all understand this. But we have not specified an exact date when this will take place, aside from specifying 15 November as a limit.

[Words indistinct] [Speaker switches to English] what we think is that this measurement, of course, ought to be taken during the course, the preparatory course of this document of Esquipulas. The time limit will be November 5th. But we have not set another schedule, a new schedule for this measure to be taken. We all know that, as part of the democratization process, some of these new measurements have to be taken, and they are going to be; we are all in complete agreement on that respect. But we did not set any specific date for this particular [words indistinct].

[Reporter] I want to ask Father D'Escoto whether dialogue with the contras is implicit in the Esquipulas II agreements. My other question is, what mechanism is the Monitoring Commission going to use to determine whether the U.S. Government has stopped its arms trafficking in Central America for the contras?

[D'Escoto] I did not hear the first part of your question very clearly. I want to remind you that according to the rules, each one can ask two questions.

[Reporter] Yes, two questions.

[D'Escoto] Well, I have already been asked my two questions. [laughs] No. It is not two questions by each journalist; it is two questions for each foreign minister. The colleagues ask me to answer. Thus, if I understood correctly, the question is whether Esquipulas II makes it mandatory to hold a dialogue with the contras.

[Reporter] Exactly.

[D'Escoto] All right. Clearly—most clearly and emphatically—when one speaks of dialogue, it is implied that people have laid down arms and have taken advantage of amnesty. Clearly, it does not stipulate...[changes thought] There may be an obligation to hold a dialogue—originating in Esquipulas II but it will be indirect. In the part concerning a cease-fire, there is an admonition that one should be agreed upon. The agreement in this case implies a dialogue, but does not determine with whom. In the case of Nicaragua, we have a situation where there is not a rebellion from inside this country. There are mercenaries sent by a foreign power that have been created, organized, trained, financed, and directed by that foreign power to wage war on Nicaragua. Nicaragua has never recognized the Reagan administration's mercenaries as valid interlocutors. On the contrary, we have insisted on direct talks with the U.S. Government to achieve a normalization of our bilateral relations. Moreover, at no time has the international community, through the UN Security Council resolution, demanded that Nicaragua hold a dialogue with the agents of the foreign power waging war against us, nor has a resolution on this been approved. It has been categorically said that Nicaragua and the United States should normalize their bilateral relations through a dialogue. Moreover, there has been a clear and categorical verdict from the International Court of Justice that clearly, categorically, and unequivocally orders the United States to immediately cease military and paramilitary actions directed in and against Nicaragua. Thus, in the case of these forces that wage war on us, we are forced, because we are facing such a situation, to seek an agreement for a dialogue, and this agreement ...[changes thought] excuse me, an agreement for a cease-fire is reached through dialogue. We always sought a dialogue with the United States in order to have it obey the court's verdict, and it refuses. We cannot force the United States to hold a dialogue. We are committed to seeking a dialogue, but if they do not want to hold it, we, on our part, will have complied with great effort to that effect, and if they do not want to accept this, that is no longer our problem. Not even the International Court of Justice has been able to exert any influence on U.S. foreign policy with regard to Nicaragua, which is more in compliance with the rules of international law. That is the part of the question I understood.

[Reporter] My question is for Honduran Foreign Minister Mr Lopez Contreras. I am [name indistinct] from Radio Sandino. After the Managua meeting, does Honduras maintain the position of not appointing a national reconciliation commission?

[Lopez Contreras] Yes, that is the Honduran Government's official position, because at the moment, and given the historical perspective of the negotiation of the Guatemala agreement, Contadora, and the various calls made in Punta del Este, in Caraballeda, in the original proposal made by President Arias, in the proposals made by Honduras—that is, the Honduran version of the Arias plan—in all those documents, it is systematically stated that the creation of national reconciliation commissions is obligatory in those countries that have suffered profound societal divisions. This will allow them to enter into a frank process of national reconciliation. That it is to say, this is the answer for those countries where the political and juridical institutions have been broken down. It will permit the armed opposition to lay down its arms, the refugees to return to their respective countries, and the society in question enter into an absolutely normal process. That is not the case in Honduras. Therefore, Honduras is not bound by it. I suppose your question is motivated by the fact that this has been given very cordial consideration by the five foreign ministers during the Executive Commission meeting. Thank you very much.

[Reporter] I am from the CNN television network. I would like to ask my question in English, but I will first ask it in Spanish, and it is for anyone of you who wishes to answer it. The question is: Were there any points of disagreement between you during the meetings, and will these points be discussed in the next meeting in San Jose? What are those points? [Reporter repeats question in English]

[D'Escoto] The question deals with pending points, not completely clarified, and which, of course, will be dealt with at the next meeting. Well, I feel that one of the main points is the question of simultaneity—and I say it is one of the main ones, because we have agreed to defer it to a special meeting that, through Guatemala's courtesy, will be held there on 15-16 October to ensure that the results of this work are ready for our next foreign ministers meeting to be held, as I have already said, on 27 and 28 October. We want to have a more homogeneous understanding of that complex matter of simultaneity. This is one of those points that we feel are too complex for us to discuss at this meeting, because it would have taken us practically the entire time to do so. Therefore, we just discussed it for a while.

However the matter here is not one of disagreement, because I cannot really say that we were in disagreement. We simply pointed out some subjects about which we cannot yet reach an agreement, because more consideration and more work are necessary. This is the main point, as I said, and to prove it, it will be the subject of a special meeting of a commission created by us specifically—I should say a subcommission of the Executive Commission—to deal with this matter exclusively.

[D'Escoto switches to English] There has been really no disagreement in the course of our deliberations yesterday and today, but there are some points, that were left not totally resolved, and perhaps the most important one has to do with the interpretation of the concept of simultaneity. We agreed to create a special subcommission that will get together on the 15th and 16th October in Guatemala to prepare the elements that would enable us to reach an agreement, by that I mean the foreign ministers, in our next meeting, to be held in Costa Rica in late October. You cannot speak of lack of agreement in the sense of disagreement, but there are certain points on which we have to do a little bit more work in order to arrive at a common understanding. Thank you.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] of NOTIMEX with a question for Salvadoran Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta. Mr Minister, in the actual case of El Salvador, Jose Napoleon Duarte's government has already sat down on two occasions with the FMLN to hold talks. Can another dialogue take place, or is another meeting with the insurgents expected soon within the framework of Esquipulas and with the mediation of President Arias? What is the situation at this moment?

[Acevedo Peralta] Yes, we are willing to have a new round of talks with the FMLN-FDR within the framework of Esquipulas II, as you said. I believe that the crux of the matter is that the FMLN-FDR must show their willingness to obey the agenda within the framework created by the Esquipulas II agreement. This means that all the concepts have to be accepted by them integrally, exactly the way specified in the Esquipulas document, as an indivisible and harmonic whole. We feel certain that when the FMLN-FDR accepts this peace agreement, we will talk about peace and not about war, we will go and hold a sincere, honest dialogue and not a strategic, politicized, and propagandistic dialogue. Therefore, we have demanded and continue to demand from the FMLN-FDR acceptance of the Esquipulas II framework, which has been accepted by everybody and which is supported by countries all over the world. This will allow a dialogue for peace, a constructive dialogue, not a dialogue for war, not a dialogue for the continuation of the destruction and deterioration of our country, to be held within this framework.

[Reporter] I must confess that I have not understood Father D'Escoto's explanation about the role of the two [words indistinct], and I would like to ask the foreign ministers—leaving it up to you if you do not want to answer—if all of you are clear on this, and which of the two commissions will have the last word, if you want to answer this question.

[D'Escoto] I must say I never understood the question either, because the question we understood was: What was the relationship between the Executive Ccommission and the Verification and Monitoring Commission?

But now it seems that our friend's question is: What is the function of each of them? This is something else. The function of the Executive Commission is to promote, facilitate, and regulate compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements. We are responsible for seeing to it that all provisions are made to ensure that compliance is forging ahead, within the stipulated terms. That is the role of the Executive Commission.

The International Verification and Monitoring Commission has the objective of verifying compliance with the agreements. These two commissions are completely different in nature. The one is to verify, and the other is to promote, facilitate, and program. There may be a similarity in that there are two verification commissions, one national and another international, and there is a certain similarity between them because they are both for verification. The question here is not one of who has the last word. The Executive Commission is not a verification commission. However, the members of the Executive Commission are also members of the International Verification and Monitoring Commission. Of course, one cannot be judge and defendant at the same time with regard to the verification of certain facts. Let us suppose, for example, that country X is being investigated, let us say it is Nicaragua. Clearly, the Nicaraguan representative will not have much to say on the matter of Nicaraguan compliance. It would not make sense. That is, we have not decided on that yet, but we somewhat believe that it would actually be the same with any other country. The representative will have to abstain—that is our opinion, we have not decided that yet—from participating when it has to do with his own country's compliance. But these are, in fact, totally different commissions.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] I would like to ask any of the foreign ministers who would care to answer if you are admitting already that the provisions of the Guatemala agreement will not be complied with by 7 November, and if you will to schedule an extension of that date.

[Unidentified Speaker] I do not know if I understood your question, but you ask whether we have considered whether the terms are adequate, and whether it is possible that by 7 November, the provisions of the Guatemala document might not have been complied with. No. The truth is that, until now, we have been complying with the terms of the Guatemala agreement, and we prefer to inject a great deal of optimism into our actions. In any case, you might ask this question on 8 November, because that is when we will be considering it. If they have not been complied with, then we shall see—in accordance with the International Verification Commission—what measures to take and whether a presidential meeting should be called at that time.

Cuba

'Our America' on U.S. Role in Panama

PA192138 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Sep 87

["Our America" commentary by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The participation of a U.S. Embassy official in Panama at destabilizing activities called by the National Civic Crusade is conclusive, but it is not the only evidence that this embassy has been an instigator in the isthmian country's political crisis.

As we all remember, U.S. Economic counselor David Miller was arrested for 8 hours after he was observed participating in the violent outbreaks in San Miguelita last Sunday [11 Sep], which left one dead and two wounded.

According to the newspaper *Critica*, which quoted witnesses present at the time, Miller was giving instructions to Crusade members when he was arrested. This fact, although the U.S. Government has tried to minimize it, has unmasked for the public the participation of the U.S. and its role as instigator in the present crisis in Panama.

Local media had already reported in recent months that both the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Panama Canal Commission were giving material and financial support to the right-wing groups and to big businessmen in their efforts to destabilize the government. At that time, the bimonthly newspaper *Bayano* called for U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis' immediate departure from the country, because they considered him one of the parties most responsible for creating chaos and discord among Panamanians. This newspaper also reported that in U.S. Embassy offices a fascist plan had been developed to topple the government and to install in power reactionary elements to guarantee the permanent presence of the U.S. in the Panama Canal Zone after the year 2000.

'Sale of' Guatemalan Children Viewed

PA151940 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Sep 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Although it is amazing and frightening, the sale of children has become a serious problem in some Latin American countries, generally those that have a very high birthrate. If high unemployment rates, poverty, undernourishment, illiteracy, and other serious problems are added to this situation, it becomes easier for unscrupulous persons to sell children on the pretext of resolving problems for both parents and children.

Today, we want to refer to those in this dirty and inhumane business in Guatemala, a country that has all these conditions as well as great political violence, corruption, lack of housing, and poor sanitary conditions. According to figures reported by the Guatemalan weekly *Prensa Latina*, the country's unemployment rate is 43 percent, and this factor has a very negative effect on the youngest family members.

In the shadow of this distressful situation there is a large, illegal network selling 3-month-old to 6-year-old children. Deputy Mario Tarracona said in June that in 1985, 218 children had been taken out of the country; that in 1986 this figure rose to 423; and that in the first 5 months of 1987 the number had increased to 600.

The traffickers' network includes doctors, attorneys, and others persons who, with the support of government officials, steal children from unwed mothers or mothers with very limited economic resources to be sold in foreign countries at a later date. Tarracona, who heads the Guatemalan Congress' Children's Protection Commission, added that the traffickers make between $3000 and $4000 for each child they export, but other sources indicate that profits can reach up to $20,000.

When some persons learn four out of every five children in Guatemala's Solola Department die before the age of 5, they could believe the children would be better off in the hands of adoptive parents who could save them from dying of hunger or illness. However, it is not so simple or humanitarian because, according to an *El Grafico* editorial, many of the children are bought by persons or organizations in foreign countries to be sold to parents of children who due to accident, illness, or hereditary defects need an organ transplant. The trade in Guatemalan children has thrived in the shadow of the population's greatest sufferings. Only by eliminating the causes of the economic slump, which has had especially strong and cruel repercussions on Guatemala's poorest sectors, can a solution be found to this problem.

Jorge Risquet Meets With ROK Delegation

FL211358 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, met over the weekend with a South Korean National Democratic Front delegation that visited Cuba. The visitors talked about the South Korean people's struggle to overthrow Chon Tu-hwan's fascist government, establish a democratic government, and get the U.S. occupation troops out of the country.

Lawyers Meeting Convenes in Havana

Borge on U.S. Rights Abuse

FL151512 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1143 GMT 15 Sep 87

["Speech" by Commander Tomas Borge, Nicaragua's interior minister, at eighth conference of the American Association of Lawyers at 14 September morning session at Havana's Palace of Conventions— recorded]

[Text] The United States is the world champion of human rights violations. They have won almost all the gold, silver, and bronz medals in the cruel and criminal sport of human rights violations.

Not in vain do they have the best trainers and technicians, as Uruguayans know, for example. [applause]

Not in vain do they even have the most-talented scientists in the art of torture, as is also known by the [words indistinct] alumni of the gorilla-squad [gorilato] of Latin America and other continents.

If a government had to be overthrown for violating human rights, we would, in the first place, have to overthrow the government of the United States. [applause]

Nevertheless, it hasn't even occurred to us to discuss at the Nicaraguan National Assembly or in the assembly [National Assembly of the People's Government] led by Flavio Bravo in Cuba, the financing of mercenary groups or commandos of national revenge to carry out the punishment, revenge, death, and destruction of the United States. It hasn't even occurred to us. We don't do it. We wouldn't do it because we seriously respect international law, because we are people of solid moral principles. "Mutual respect" and "self-determination of people for Nicaraguans and for all revolutionaries" are not tired phrases and we do not repeat them with the enthusiasm of a parrot.

Escalona's News Conference

FL172312 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1948 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] The process of penal adjustments [despenalizacion] that will soon be in effect includes 60 crime categories that are no longer used because the severity of the crime does not reflect the times in which we live. This was stated by Justice Minister Dr Juan Escalona Reguera in a news conference held this morning with national and foreign reporters covering the eighth conference of the American Association of Lawyers. Penal adjustments include the reduction of sentences for some crimes. For example, the minimum sentence for occupied home burglaries was 10 years. In other instances, sentences will be increased in cases such as assault against law enforcement agents and antisocial behavior against foreign citizens. Dr Escalona underscored that these adjustments do not mean that we are going to give up on the struggle against crime but that we are attempting to make the justice system more rational and humane, and thus, stronger.

Responding to a question made by a reporter from the Spanish news agency EFE who asked how many political prisoners we have in Cuba, Dr Juan Escalona said none, because ideas are not punished in Cuba. The justice minister stressed that the so-called political prisoners issue was made up by the imperialist news machinery. Escalona asked the journalists why his agency had not reported anything on the forum after he visited the prisons, witnessed the Cuban situation, and listened to the opinions of the lawyers of the region.

Dr Escalona stated that imperialism is only interested in the illegal departures since the legal ones cannot be used in their human rights violations campaign in Cuba. He said this is a voluntary society of revolutionaries which we built with love and that passion makes us defend it tooth and nail.

Over 400 drug traffickers have been detained in the last 7 years. Those are the poor devils who take risks because the big ones are not in jails, Dr Juan Escalona Reguera said in the news conference. He reported that presently there are 14 U.S. citizens imprisoned for those crimes and they prefer to serve the sentence in Cuban instead of U.S. jails.

Responding to another question on the repercussions of the American lawyers conference he said: Over 1,000 lawyers of the continent have been able to exchange views and experiences and see the achievements of a revolutionary country. We have not had to ask the forum's participants to believe in us; on the contrary, we just tell them to see with their own eyes the situation in Cuba.

Attorney General's Speech

FL171528 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1253 GMT 16 Sep 87

["Speech" by Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz at the Eighth Conference of the American Association of Lawyers in Havana's Palace of Conventions; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [In progress] . . . and our ties with lawyers of the world, especially with Latin Americans, are each day more extensive than ever.

I think that the information media dominated by the great transnational news agencies, actually manipulated by the imperialists, have for a very long time distorted Cuban reality. They have tried to represent our society as a society that does not respect rights, where rights do not exist, where arbitrariness and chaos reign.

Lawyers from other Latin American countries, who are honest and objective, can visit Cuba and learn how our legal system operates, what our ideas are in respect to law and legality.

The construction of socialism is a success that refutes campaigns that the enemies of the Cuban revolution have tried to develop for years.

Hundreds of Latin American lawyers can also visit our prison system. This also helps reveal the campaigns led by the enemies of the Cuban revolution in reference to human rights in our country.

In our opinion, the penitentiary center as such is an irreplaceable reality in the world today. It is not possible, under the circumstances of any known—not utopian—modern society to ignore the penitentiary system. I think the problem is not whether or not the penitentiary system should exist. I have no doubt that a prison system must exist. The problem is how the system functions, how the punishment is carried out, and how the person is treated in that penitentiary system.

If we make the person the center of all our attention in this system, we give him adequate treatment; we recognize his rights. The prisoner has a right to an education,

to entertainment, to be treated like a human being,to contact his family, and to be reincorporated into society so that when he is released his world is not one from which he has been distant for many years. If we are able to make a prisoner be a better person at the time of his release, then the penitentiary system, in my opinion, is actually not experiencing a crisis.

The problem does not (?end) with the penitentiary system. Generally, the released prisoner is rejected in all societies. People do not want to employ him. He is discriminated against; segregated from society and this contributes to the person committing another crime.

We in Cuba have not been unfamiliar with that experience, but I think that with the possibilities given to us by socialism, we have been able to reach the masses through the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. We can even say we have reached the cadre level in explaining to the people why that rejection cannot exist. Rejection alone contributes to the person returning to crime, to committing another crime, and does not respond to the program of reentering society, which we have for the prisoner.

We have many experiences on this. For example, we recently have placed more than 12,000 people on conditional liberty and in each of these cases, they have been guaranteed work. They have been guaranteed that when they join a cadre in their neighborhood, they will be adequately treated. They will not be rejected.

In our opinion, this is a policy that has contributed to a better understanding. We have to guarantee that those who are released from a prison center can reenter society. To guarantee his reentry into society, it is indispensable that he is not rejected. If society rejects, separates, and discriminates against him, that person will unavoidably commit crimes again.

Penitentiary System Viewed

FL151849 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 87

[By Mayra Viera from the Palace of Conventions]

[Text] The delegates to the eighth conference of the American Association of Lawyers are debating topics of international interest during their second day of work.

Human rights, self-determination of nations, the Cuban penitentiary system,and labor and womens rights were the most relevant topics discussed during the morning session, which ended with a press conference granted by Dr Ramon de la Cruz, attorney general of the Republic of Cuba. His main topic was prison justice.

[Begin De la Cruz recording] I think that the information media dominated by the great transnational [words indistinct] actually by imperialism, have for a very long time distorted Cuban reality. They have tried to represent our society as a society that does not respect rights, where rights do not exist, where arbitrariness and chaos reign.

Lawyers from other Latin American countries, who are honest and objective, can visit Cuba and learn how [words indistinct] legal system, what our ideas are in respect to [words indistinct] legality.

The construction of socialism is a successful achievement that refutes campaigns that the enemies of the Cuban revolution have tried to develop for years.

Hundreds of Latin American lawyers can also visit our prison system. This also helps reveal the campaigns led by the enemies of the Cuban revolution in reference to human rights in our country. [end recording]

The process of administering justice is complex and depends on many factors but its final goal is to achieve an agile, dynamic, and flexible justice with fundamental guarantees as demanded by the new society.

The topic of human rights and the Cuban penitentiary system will continue to be discussed in the evening session.

Sugar Industry Concerned With U.S. Quota

FL181909 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Sep 87

[Text] Cuban sugar industry representatives have expressed their concern for the growing protectionism of the United States in view of a new reduction in its sugar import quota, which affects 20 regional nations.

The sources indicate that Washington has reduced its quota from more than 5 million tons in 1981 to 1.15 million last year. They added that this situation contributes to an oversupply of sugar on the market, thus decreasing prices even more and accentuating the crisis that strongly affects nations which are deeply in debt.

Raul Castro Speaks at FAR Civilian Congress

FL191254 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1202 GMT 19 Sep 87

[By Carlos Comesanas]

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, FAR minister, has presided over the opening day of the fifth congress of the National FAR Civilian Workers Union, which will end today in Havana.

Among the primary topics of the main report debated by more than 250 delegates are those related to work organization, quality in production, and efficiency in rendering services.

One of the enlighting remarks made by the FAR minister was that life and the 28 years of revolution have taught us to be prudent, patient, and constant in all labor organization of work and salaries.

In reference to quality control, Raul said quality should be guaranteed before, during, and after any process is completed.

The congress will conclude today after approval of the main report, which has been discussed in two plenary sessions. The meeting is being held in the FAR Universal Hall under the slogan "A Single Purpose; To Confront and Overcome Difficulties" and has been characterized by many in-depth speeches made by the delegates.

Among the most outstanding topics discussed are the ability to carry out the responsibilities of a position, cadre policies, efficiency in maintenance and repair work, and expansion of the workers section for optimum use of the work force.

Today, during the closing session of the congress, the delegates will also discuss and approve the trade union's rules and elect the national committee and secretariat.

Fire at State Committee in Havana

FL211207 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] A large fire broke out last night at a State Committee for Economic Cooperation unit located at 19 de Mayo and Rancho Boyeros Avenue in Havana. [video shows building on fire and firefighters at the scene] Havana firefighting combatants controlled the fire and prevented the loss of human life. Considerable damage is expected inasmuch as three stories of the building were affected and numerous documents, projects, and office furniture were destroyed. The two basements were the only spared areas. Medical personnel showed up immediately at the scene of the fire and treated smoke inhalation cases. Adjoining buildings were not damaged. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

El Salvador

Duarte Announces Dialogue With FMLN-FDR

PA230530 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Statement by President Jose Napoleon Duarte to the nation—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] . . . Now I will read the letter I have received:

The Esquipulas II agreements have opened a new and positive political opportunity in the Central American countries and abroad because they are an important expression of the political autonomy of the region and represent our people's desire for peace.

Considering all this, the FMLN-FDR states: We express our support for the peace efforts promoted by the Guatemala accords. The agreements are an appropriate framework for the search for political solutions to the internal conflicts of our nations. The agreements will be effectively implemented in El Salvador if they respond to the particular characteristics of our conflict.

Mr President, we take it—the FMLN-FDR states—that this is the spirit that you have always had. The FMLN-FDR is willing to guide our peace efforts in the framework of the Esquipulas II agreements. We believe that all differences regarding the specific implementation of such agreements must be discussed in a dialogue between the FMLN-FDR and the Salvadoran Government.

The FMLN-FDR expresses its willingness to agree to a cease-fire within the framework of the Guatemala agreements as part of an overall effort to achieve peace in El Salvador.

With affection ahd highest esteem, we sign:

Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora from the FDR;

Jose Mario Lopez and Salvador Samayoa from the FMLN.

Salvadoran people, I believe that the position stated by the FMLN-FDR shows progress from the FMLN's previous position, stated in their 11 August 1987 communique and published in our country's news media. Among other things, the communique stated—besides rejecting the Esquipulas II agreements—that democracy and the search for peace require the formation of a government of national consensus in El Salvador, with which they tried to break the institutional order protected in our Constitution and to disregard the legitimacy of the Salvadoran people's democratization process, its proper authorities, and its Constitution. As the Salvadoran people know, this goes against the letter and spirit of the Esquipulas II agreements.

Salvadoran people, I believe that the content of the letter I just read is an expression of the FMLN-FDR's willingness to accept the peace efforts and democracy in our country within the rules established by Esquipulas II, which I praise as a means of hope for the majority of the Salvadoran people.

I hope that the positive attitude of the FDR-FMLN diplomatic representatives is supported by the five FMLN commanders. Salvadoran people, it would be deplorable if the part of the FDR-FMLN note which says, quote, the agreement will be effectively implemented in El Salvador if it responds to the particular characteristics of our conflict, unquote, implies proposals that violate our Constitution, because this would mean that the war would continue and that peace would not be achieved.

The plan signed by the presidents in Guatemala means that:

1. All the points included in the Esquipulas II agreement's letter and spirit represent an indivisible and harmonious whole.

2. The Esquipulas II document is, in its letter and spirit, an instrument to attain peace and to not extend the war.

3. The Esquipulas II document's letter and spirit seek peace in each one of the countries in this area, abiding by their respective constitutions. Also, Article 2, last paragraph, reads: The governments of said states pledge to carry out all the necessary actions to attain an effective cease-fire within the constitutional framework. Article 3, letter C, refers to democratization and literally says: Likewise, the Central American governments that have decreed a state of emergency or siege must abolish them and implement a legal state and fully enforce all the citizens' constitutional rights. Article 4, last paragraph, literally says: Following the elections to comprise the Central American parliament, each country must review—in the presence of international observers and according to approved deadlines—their current political constitutions. The states must also hold free and democratic elections to elect local, municipal, congressional, and legislative assembly representatives and the president of the Republic.

4. Also, we must not forget that the last paragraph of Article 7 of our Constitution, from which I have read the three articles that specifically mention the constitutional framework, literally says: The existence of armed political, religious, and labor union groups is forbidden.

The FMLN-FDR now says that the Esquipulas II agreements have opened a new and positive political opportunity in Central American countries. However, this is also a regional and international issue because it is an important expression of the political autonomy of the region and it encompasses our peoples' wishes for peace. In view of the aforementioned, the FMLN-FDR voices its support for and its decision to give constructive support to the peace efforts, as interpreted in the Guatemala agreement, unquote. [no beginning quote as heard]

Within the framework of Esquipulas II, and interpreting the feelings of the Salvadoran people who wish to achieve peace, the Salvadoran Government wants to begin as soon as possible a dialogue for peace. Therefore, I hereby specify that as of 0900, on 4 October 1987—the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the apostle of peace—and if the apostolic nuncio approves it, the dialogue will be held at the apostolic nunciature of San Salvador. The moderator will be Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas.

With faith in God and with the hopes of the Salvadorans, we will make another effort for peace so that the rebel groups will rejoin the democratic process and our people will achieve its most cherished wishes of peace. May God be with us.

Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas: I now give you the note and the document I have just read.

[Rivera y Damas] I receive it and I will [words indistinct]. [applause]

Zamora Terms Dialogue 'Positive'

PA230230 Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Sep (AFP)—The Salvadoran guerrillas termed "positive" the resumption of dialogue with the government of President Jose Napoleon Duarte and announced that they will maintain an open attitude "so that it will be productive."

The holding of a dialogue between the parties was announced today by President Duarte for 4 October in San Salvador, thus fulfilling the Central American peace plan approved by the five presidents of the region in Guatemala on 7 August.

Ruben Zamora, vice president of the FDR, the political branch of the FMLN, told AFP on the telephone from Managua that the meeting must be held "with an open-minded, rational attitude, considering that above all we want peace."

Also, he described as a "highly positive" element the fact that the conversations are to be held at the apostolic nunciature, as was proposed by the leftist fronts, because it will "resolve logistical-operational problems."

Zamora recalled that the FMLN-FDR proposed several weeks ago that the government discuss two basic points: agreement on a cease-fire, which was discussed in the peace plan; and the continuation of the dialogue to seek political solutions to the 7-year war.

"That is our proposal, and we believe that the government will make its proposal through Msgr Arturo Rivera, the mediator," he noted, insisting that "our attitude is very flexible and open because the important thing is to resume the dialogue for peace in El Salvador."

The opposition leader stated that the implementation of the Guatemala agreements must be in line with El Salvador's specific conditions.

"If a dress is designed for five people it can be the same style, but it must be adjusted for each person's size," he said.

Finally, Ruben Zamora noted that "at this time it is not a matter of blocking the path; thus none of the parties must set conditions for the dialogue, because that is how we intend to seek peace."

Nicaragua

Government Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire

Communique

PA221924 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1820 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Press communique of the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic issued in Managua on 22 September; read by Minister Ricardo Espinoza during a news conference at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua—live]

[Text] In accordance with point 2 of the Esquipulas II agreements, the Nicaraguan Government has decided to adopt the necessary actions aimed at achieving an effective cease-fire within the constitutional framework. Toward that end the president of the Republic has decided:

1. To postpone the campaigns or offensive operations for a determined period of time in different areas of the country that will be announced by the government.

2. That EPS troops will be concentrated in specific areas within the designated territories.

3. That these unilateral actions will create favorable conditions so that representatives of the National Reconciliation Commission and/or of the Peace Commissions may inform the population and the counterrevolutionary forces alike of the contents and extent of the Esquipulas II agreements.

4. That the presence of members of the National Reconciliation Commission and/or of the Peace Commissions in those territories will make it possible to explore the counterrevolutionary leaders' willingness to accept the cease-fire, and, if such willingness is confirmed, to determine the procedure for its continuation.

The president of the Republic has requested from his eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, as president of the National Reconciliation Commission, the active participation of that commission in this initiative. In addition, Cardinal Obando y Bravo has been asked to conduct efforts in the verification of these steps unilaterally adopted by the government prior to the deadlines established in the Esquipulas II agreements in order to create the conditions for an effective cease-fire.

Managua, 22 September 1987

No one surrenders here!

Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic

D. Ortega Comments

PA222001 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1823 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua after a meeting of the National Reconciliation Commission—live]

[Text] Good morning, Nicaraguan people and dear journalists. This morning I met with the National Reconciliation Commission, headed by His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, to tell the members about two decisions made by the Nicaraguan Government.

These decisions have to do, one, with the cease-fire, and the other with the opening of Radio Catolica.

After listening to the communique issued by the Presidency's Information and Press Directorate, I must explain the following: the Nicaraguan Government has deemed it advisable that the National Reconciliation Commission assume certain tasks and efforts that, although not specified in the Guatemalan document, are not banned in it, either.

Within this spirit, Cardinal Obando y Bravo sent us, more than 1 week ago, a letter from the Board of Directors of *La Prensa* in which its members, through the National Reconciliation Commission, requested the opening of the newspaper *La Prensa*.

I received this letter and immediately began to take steps, and I asked Comrade Jaime Wheelock to work in this direction.

On Saturday, I met with [Costa Rican] Foreign Minister Madrigal Nieto, who was in our country for the meeting of Central American foreign ministers. He has very good relations with the Chamorro family, which owns the newspaper *La Prensa*. He talked with the *La Prensa* owners about the possibility of reopening the newspaper. He gave me his views and expressed his concerns to me.

I met with Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, Cristiana Chamorro, and Antonio Lacayo. Later, I had to leave on a tour of one of the cement factories in San Rafael del Sur and the Julio Buitrago Sugar Mill, and I left Comrade Wheelock in charge to represent me and continue the efforts which culminated on that day with the Nicaraguan Government decision to open *La Prensa* newspaper.

I am explaining this so that it can be understood that a procedure was involved here which included the participation of the National Reconciliation Commission and the letter sent by the *La Prensa* Board of Directors to Cardinal Obando, in his position as president of the commission. This was a letter that the cardianl turned over to me, and then we took the steps I just mentioned to you.

In all these efforts we recognize the contribution of Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Niet(

Regarding this decision I made today concerning the cease-fire and point 2 of the Esquipulas Agreement—this is aimed at achieving a total cease-fire: In other words, we favor a cease-fire throughout the country. However, we are going to work for it gradually because the Guatemala agreement forces us to take steps toward a cease-fire.

Consequently, this is a first specific step that we are taking to achieve a cease-fire so that a moment will come when the entire country will have a true cease-fire and better conditions will be created for achieving simultaneous implementation of the agreements by our deadline, 5 November, which was established at the Guatemalan meeting on 7 August.

For this reason we are asking the National Reconciliation Commission, headed by His Eminence Cardinal Obando, to participate actively in this process. We are already working on specific measures and actions so in the next few days we can announce the first point, the first zone where this cease-fire will be ordered, and where we will concentrate the troops at a specific point. If we order a cease-fire in a specific zone and delimit so many square kilometers in that zone, we will at the same time announce that we are concentrating troops at a specific point in that zone. Therefore, we would be halting our offensive military activities in that zone. Of course, if we are attacked at the point where we have concentrated the troops they will defend themselves.

However, we are halting our offensive military activities to allow the National Reconciliation Commission to work in the area and to allow the commissions that have been created in the regions—which we hope will overcome any contradictions that are being experiencing between the commissions formed in the region with the National Reconciliation Commission—to work. We hope to allow the people of that specific territory and the counterrevolutionaries there to learn about the contents of the Guatemala agreements and the decision of the Nicaraguan Government to unilaterally decree a cease-fire. We hope that the commission will talk with them, the counterrevolutionary leaders, there to establish forms and mechanisms to prolong the cease-fire and create better conditions for the amnesty process and the pacification process demanded by our country, also in compliance with the Guatemalan agreements.

As I said at the beginning, this morning I informed Cardinal Obando about the Nicaraguan Government's willingness to allow Radio Catolica to go on the air immediately so it can carry its pastoral, religious, and spiritual message to the Nicaraguan people.

This is what we wanted to tell our people and the local and foreign press. Thank you.

Obando y Bravo, Ramirez Remarks

PA222308 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2025 GMT 22 Sep 87

[News conference by Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado with local and foreign newsmen at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Obando y Bravo] ...approximately 618 (?prisoners), who should have been granted a pardon; we also made some observations regarding basic norms, which had been changed. We had established that special meetings would take place when any National Reconciliation Commission members requested it to the commission's presidency. Today, we established a new norm on that issue. We decided that a request for a special meeting made by a member of the National Reconciliation Commission must be submitted 48 hours in advance and must include the topic to be discussed at that meeting.

We added another change to the norms governing the commission. We had said that to hold a session we needed to have at least four members of the commission present, whether they were main or alternate members. Now, we have established that sessions can be held with three members present, even if a main members and his alternate are absent.

We also discussed amnesty. We explained how that concept should be understood, and we discussed the various regional commissions being formed. Those commissions will be subordinate to the National Reconciliation Commission. What are the objectives of those commissions, which will be comprised of ecclesiastic leaders, government officials, political parties, the Red Cross, and perhaps other distinguished regional figures-...[changes thought] will always be subordinated to the National Reconciliation Commission. They must verify their fulfillment of the amnesty law and must contribute to the National Reconciliation Commission's efforts to attain a cease-fire. I am perhaps overlooking some minor details, but since we have several members of the commission present I would like them to embellish some of these statements, and perhaps you would like to ask the various members some questions.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the peace commission to establish a dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries?

[Obando y Bravo] The date has not yet been set. The government must study that situation, because, as the president said, the cease-fire is a process; we have to go step by step, and the government is the one that will determine the date and the conditions for the dialogue.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will transmit news and what the limitations are on the type of news transmitted according to the peace agreements. What will be the role of Radio Catolica? What did the government request in return for reopening it? What did the negotiations consist of?

[Obando y Bravo] Radio Catolica has been reopened. I do not know whether it will start operating immediately because, as I mentioned, there is some equipment that is not working at all, which would cost approximately $22,000 to replace. We have to see who will donate the money. We then have to get the equipment so the radio station can start operating. It was established that Radio Catolica has to transmit the message of the gospel to all people. Religious messages are permitted; although sometimes religious messages include political connotations, they will be religious messages.

[Reporter] There are no limitations on its transmission?

[Obando y Bravo] No, there are no limitations on its transmission. I understand the political significance of that question. However, the word politics connotes so much. Radio Catolica can transmit religious messages without any restrictions.

[Reporter] How does Cardinal Obando view the government's decision to reopen Radio Catolica?

[Obando y Bravo] I believe that important steps are being made—for example, the reopening of the newspaper *La Prensa* and Radio Catolica. I would be pleased if other closed radio stations and newspapers are reopened as well. I believe that it is a positive step, and I hope that we can take those steps needed to attain the peace and reconciliation longed for by all Nicaraguans.

[Reporter] How will a cease-fire be attained if the counterrevolutionary leaders have stated that if there are not direct negotiations with them, nothing will be done? What will the commission do about this?

[Obando y Bravo] Here is Mr Vice President, who ...

[Moderator, interrupting] Dr Ramirez will speak now.

[Ramirez] Today, the Nicaraguan president announced the initiation of a cease-fire process to be established in the next few days, and he named those areas where the cease-fire will be in effect. Therefore, the National Reconciliation Commission will carry out its corresponding duties in those specific territories. We will verify the initial stages of the cease-fire process and will try to establish more specific ways to apply the cease-fire, once the government names the first areas where the cease-fire will be implemented.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] in the most recent statements made by President Reagan, he said that he will continue financing the contra movement.

[Ramirez] The Nicaraguan Government stated and reiterates it now through me that we will continue taking specific steps toward peace to help fulfill the agreements.

The Nicaraguan Government has not wondered about who should make the first step [1 second break in reception] because that discussion would be endless. The only way to start implementing the agreements is by taking the first step. We have done so. Today the Nicaraguan president added two very important steps: The announcement of the imminent cease-fire in various Nicaraguan regions, which will be determined and supervised by the National Reconciliation Commission; and the reopening of Radio Catolica and the announced reopening of *La Prensa*. As Cardinal Obando said, those are very important steps toward the goal of giving others an opportunity to fulfill their part of the agreements in order to attain peace in Nicaragua. We are acting in good faith as everybody can see. We are very serious about the whole issue and we will not disappoint anyone, including those who have denied us credibility in the past.

[Reporter] When will the cease-fire begin?

[Ramirez] We do not have the information now. It will be announced in due time.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] you, as the National Reconciliation Commission or a peace subcommission. As for the counterrevolutionaries, what date . . .

[Ramirez, interrupting] All of those steps will be announced in due time. We do not want to be hasty; we do not want to speculate on something that still has not been defined. The government and the commission will have to have very intensive negotiations to determine those specific steps regarding the Esquipulas II agreement. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Dr Ramirez, what did the church ask from the government to open Radio Catolica? What conditions did it set to open Radio Catolica?

[Ramirez] None. As Cardinal Obando y Bravo has stated, the government hopes that Radio Catolica's airwaves will be used to broadcast the Christian gospel, or the message of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church. Radio Catolica goes on the air without any sort of prior censorship.

[Reporter] Cardinal Obando y Bravo, how would you rate the work done by the commission to get the former rebels to accept the revolutionary government's amnesty?

[Obando y Bravo] Commissions will be formed comprised of church members, government officials, Red Cross officials, and a representative of the political parties or one political party, depending on the situation. These subcommissions should be subordinate to the National Reconciliation Commission. That is the objective of the regional subcommissions.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] recent pastoral letters on all the existing regulations. There was a certain. . . [changes thought] regarding the local commissions. That pastoral letter said that it opposed those proposals. Will there be a rectification on that?

[Obando y Bravo] It has been said that these commissions that will be set up, which should be comprised of church members, political parties,the Red Cross, and the government, must be subordinate to the National Reconciliation Commission.These subcommissions should help it rather than create differences. [Reporter] Costa Rican President Arias today at the U.S. Congress asked that his peace plan be given a chance and requested an end to aid for the mercenaries. Dr Ramirez, what do you have to say on the matter?

[Ramirez] To us, anything that will contribute to the implementation of the Esquipulas II objectives is beneficial. We feel that President Arias' role has been decisive in making progress toward peace. His remarks today confirm that President Arias is truly interested in a Central American peace process. We highly value his stance. Therefore, . . . [changes thought] I think we have finished, right?

[Reporter] As for amnesty [words indistinct].

[Obando y Bravo] I am going to answer the last question, as it is very late. We have previously spoken of a total amnesty. Sure, there is a decree giving amnesty to those who have laid down their weapons. Clearly, I would prefer that a total amnesty be decreed. I think that some commission member has suggested that. That is why I have stressed that this is a process that must take place one step at a time. I would personally like a total amnesty in order to have peace and reconciliation for all the people of Nicaragua. However, there is an amnesty for the rebels. As for prisoners, this is a process that must take place, as the word indicates, gradually. Thank you.

Panama

TV Station Warned of 'False Statements'

PA220037 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2326 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] This afternoon the Government and Justice Ministry sent a note of warning to Channel 13 [Telemetro Television] that reads as follows:

Mr Bolivar Marquez III,
General Manager,
Telemetro, Channel 13

Dear Mr Manager:

In view of the fact that this television channel has recently broadcast news items and interviews that make false statements against persons, public security, and public order, which thus promote an atmosphere of disinformation in the community, we wish to urge you to put an end to this attitude that harms the basic values of our society. As you are well aware, Article 37 of our Constitution points out—and the Government and Justice Ministry has frequently quoted this—there are legal ramifications when one engages in such behavior. Likewise, Law No. 11, dated 10 February 1978, provides for the penalties under such cases.

Therefore, we once again urge you who manage the television station to avoid in the future broadcasting reports and interviews with false statements.

Sincerely yours,
[Signed] Osvaldo Gudino Aguilar,
Acting Director of Social Communication Media

National Newscasts Suspended

PA230525 Paris AFP in Spanish 0450 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Panama City, 22 Sep (AFP)—The largest Panamanian radio and television network, "RPC Radio and Television," decided tonight to suspend its national newscasts to protest a warning sent by the Directorate of Social Communications Media asking it "not to broadcast information or interviews containing false statements, which promote a climate of disinformation."

The network had resumed broadcasting newscasts on the Panamanian crisis on Monday, after transmitting only international news since 27 July when four opposition newspapers and three radio stations were closed "for committing acts against the constitutional powers and the economy."

In its programs yesterday, Monday, and this morning, RPC interviewed opposition leaders whose statements about the political crisis, according to the media directorate, "were removed from reality."

CNN Correspondent Newman Leaves Country

PA230514 Paris AFP in Spanish 0415 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Text] Panama City, 22 Sep (AFP)—CNN correspondent Lucia Newman left Panama today obeying a Panamanian Government order that canceled her work permit last week and charged her with filing false reports on the country's crisis.

Newman, who heads the CNN office in Latin America, traveled to Nicaragua accompanied by her fiance, Panamanian reporter Demetrio Olaciregui.

The reporter, who was accompanied to the airport by Fernando Esquivel, secretary at the Mexican Embassy, and U.S. diplomat Terry Kneebone, said: "It is very regrettable that people who tell the truth are not accepted in this country."

Olaciregui said he was warned that "his life is in danger." He pointed out that his recent dismissal from the state-owned Radio Nacional—where he worked for 6 years—and the progovernment newspaper *La Republica* was due to his support for "ideas for correcting and changing the government."

Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 12 August accused the CNN correspondent of "misreporting" on the political crisis.

Also as part of the crisis that began in early June, authorities deported the *Reuter* correspondent 1 month ago and have suspended seven local news media outlets.

Vice President Esquivel Interview

PA172148 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1222 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Interview with Vice President Dr Roderick Esquivel, president of the Liberal Party, by reporter Ramon Jimenez Velez, in Panama City on 17 September, in the station studios during the "Open Microphone" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Jimenez] Dr Esquivel, how was the international congress of Liberal Parties? I understand that an important document was approved concerning the problems of Central America and Panama. The Liberal Party participated in this meeting, and Dr Esquivel attended the meeting as vice president of the Federation of Liberal Parties of Central America and the Caribbean. Dr Esquivel, could you tell us what the Liberals discussed? Did the Liberals discuss the possibility of becoming the moderate group between the opposing forces in Panama? [passage omitted]

[Esquivel] Regarding Panama, when I arrived everyone surrounded me and expressed their concern about the events occurring in Panama because the Liberal Party wants a peaceful transition to democracy in Panama. I have said this here at this station, and at every opportunity. This is the Liberal Party's only function in the UNADE [government political coalition].

The trip to Canada usually includes a stopover in Miami, then in Washington and finally in Ottawa. However, while I was in Canada with the many representatives of the U.S. Liberal Party, the president of the U.S. Democratic party, and from the National Democratic Institute . . .

[Jimenez, interrupting] Is the U.S. Democratic Party a member of the Liberal International?

[Esquivel] It has registered now as an observer at this liberal organization. The president of the Democratic Party attended the congress, and [name indistinct] president of the National Democratic Institute, was also there. During my talks with them, they invited me to Washington, and I accepted. In Washington, I requested an appointment to see Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. As vice president of the Republic, I wanted to know Mr Abrams' views on the situation in Panama. It seems that this visit has caused all this excitement and expectations here in Panama. I have not reviewed yet all the reports made about this visit. However, I am very surprised because some people believe that Roderick Esquivel, as vice president of the Republic, requires authorization to meet with whoever he wants to meet, whenever he wishes to do so. A vice president should be well informed for our people's benefit, and he should formulate his own views about what is occurring in the world and in Panama, and about the U.S. people's views about us. These views are important for us as partners and friends of the United States.

At this meeting, which I expected would be pleasant and constructive, unfortunately there was discontent because the United States was at the same time presenting a

diplomatic protest over a U.S. official's arrest. I was ignorant of this at that meeting because I was not aware of the details of the incident; therefore I could not adequately defend the Panamanian position because I did not know about the incident. [passage omitted]

We clearly called for a dialogue 3 months ago. The word dialogue has been completely distorted. Everyone speaks of dialogue but the conditions for a dialogue are not established. As democrats, we know that order cannot be imposed by force. Order is the result of domestic harmony achieved by satisfying all the community sectors and allowing them to express their opinion and to discuss it in a public forum as we are doing right now. It is not a matter of persecuting or destroying anyone. There can be no dialogue if the communications media are closed. There can be no dialogue when some leaders are persecuted and they are afraid. Therefore, after coming from a country with peace, dialogue, the right to assembly, and respect, I clearly see that these are conditions that are necessary to hold a dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] You have spoken about what you described as a paranoia that is poisoning Panama and that is creating a destructive environment. [passage omitted] About 1 month ago, I also traveled abroad and I found great disinformation about what is taking place in our country. [passage omitted] What do you think about this?

[Esquivel] [Passage omitted] We are a country that is discredited in the world. That loss of prestige is reflected in our economy because no one wants to invest in a discredited country where there are no guarantees and where the future is uncertain. Even Panamanians now feel discriminated against abroad. We have to recover our pride so we can be proud to say abroad that we are Panamanians. [passage omitted]

Turning back to the original question, as I told you, I have not had time to learn about the reaction of the journalists here to my meeting with Elliott Abrams. He is the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. In addition to the concern that he expressed to me in a very clear and simple way, he is also worried that Panama is suddenly developing a rhetoric of enmity toward the United States. This is worrisome for all U.S. politicians because they have considered Panama as one of their friends and because they want to continue to be our friend. They think that our rhetoric against their country, which many times borders on insult, is of concern because they have promised not to intervene in Panama's domestic affairs. At the same time, they are also experiencing a transition regarding the relationship they have had with Panama from the standpoint of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

In a very unofficial way—because our meeting was unofficial; we were two political leaders who met to exchange ideas and views about this relationship—he expressed much concern about the deterioration of the diplomatic relations between Panama and the United States, something that is illogical. He also expressed his own viewpoint about the U.S. Government's political defense of Panama's economic integrity. This is because there is a division of power in the United States. In the United States, the legislative branch is designed to prevent any concentration of power in the executive branch. It is a system of checks and balances. The legislative branch essentially serves as a counterbalance to the executive branch. The legislative branch makes its decisions, which many times do not agree with the executive branch. Right now there is a climate in favor of taking economic reprisals against Panama because there is no press freedom, because of our rhetoric, because of a number of things that have occurred without an exchange of opinions . . .

[Jimenez, interrupting] I just want to add regarding what you are mentioning that here in Panama it is said that among the conditions that the U.S. congressmen and senators might request for what they describe as the return to democracy in Panama is a change in the government.

[Esquivel] A change in the Panamanian Government?

[Jimenez] Yes, that is right.

[Esquivel] I am not too well informed about what exactly the U.S. Congress is requesting. We will have to wait to see what develops. He [Abrams] expressed hopes that this [the economic reprisals] will not happen because he thinks that this situation is part of our transition and Panama could be dealt a very big economic blow. However, that is his very personal opinion. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] You said that our country is quite discredited abroad and that we should recover our prestige. One of the things that has been mentioned here and that was the topic of some international reports is the fact that Panama was left without a visible head of government because the country's president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, was in Miami; the vice president, Roderick Esquivel, was in Canada and then in Washington; and the Defense Forces commander, General Noriega, was in Mexico. As a result of this, there was much speculation about your visit to Washington, your meeting with Elliott Abrams, and the possibility that you also met with President Delvalle in Miami because you made a stop there. There was much speculation because there was no visible head of government during these past days.

[Esquivel] Well, that is a mistaken and somewhat tendentious opinion. I am not in charge of the executive branch. The president is in charge of the executive branch. He has all the responsibility for governing the country because this is stipulated by the Constitution. He issues instructions through his cabinet, which is part of the executive branch. The executive branch centralizes its power through the ministers and the president governs through them. Therefore, when the vice president is not in charge of the executive branch, he has very

few responsibilities. I think the Constitution is very wise in permitting the president to leave the country for any purpose that he deems important for the country and he continues to be president. You have to look at the constitution and see the rules of the game before expressing opinions. The country is not leaderless. Eric Arturo Delvalle is the president of Panama and he is making use of the constitutional rules to go to the United States. It is said that he left to undergo medical tests and to hold some talks there. I am not further aware of his itinerary.

After 2 months of not exchanging any ideas with the president, the day before my departure he called me up because I had notified him that I was going to be away from the country. I notified him because I believe that this was the least that I could do, to tell the president exactly where I would be. I also told some Defense Forces authorities that I was going and I called them to say goodbye. The president said that he was going to undergo a medical checkup in Miami on Monday and that on my return it would be good if I stopped over in Miami and we would talk. I stopped in Miami but I was unable to speak with the president. His medical checkup was very brief and when I arrived, he was traveling to New York. This is the information I received from the Miami press. I tried to get in touch with him but I was unable to do so. Therefore, I have not spoken with the president. I would have liked to speak with him to brief him about my meeting in the State Department and the Canadian parliament, which also invited me to a meeting. I have been unable to speak with him. At this time, I do not have information on the president's whereabouts or on the exact date when he will return. However, there should be no doubt that the president is the current head of government, that he heads the executive branch, and that the country is not leaderless. The president is in touch with his cabinet and its members take the measures that he deems necessary. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] We have received some calls asking whether it is true that you do not attend the cabinet meetings. If this is so, what are the reasons?

[Esquivel] It is true that lately I have not attended some cabinet meetings. First, because of Liberal Party opinions, which were expressed through me as president of the party, they stopped notifying or properly inviting me. Later, I was invited but I did not go because my opinion had not been taken into account with regard to the suspension of freedom of speech. This is a topic about which I have expressed quite firm opinions. People who are not informed cannot have a clear vision of their destiny. Constitutional guarantees are not suspended in Panama. For me, the closing of a communications media is like closing a church. If a priest delivers a sermon that is incompatible with morals or church doctrine, that priest is removed but the church is not closed. The church continues functioning. I have to act in accordance with the principles of the Liberal Party which are essentially in defense of freedom, human rights, and civil and political rights. We are not Liberals just because we want to be called liberals. We Liberals have to act consistent with our ideology and we must defend democracy at all costs. That is exactly what we are doing. In addition, I think that after the invitations to attend the cabinet meetings were suspended, a basic sense of dignity demands that I be given an explanation. Those are the reasons why lately I have not attended the cabinet meetings as, let us say, an observer. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] We continue this exclusive talk with Vice President Esquivel, president of the Liberal Party, upon his return last night from Canada and the United States. I have here a copy of one of the local papers, which has a report on the subjects we have been discussing this morning. The article reads: "Roderick secretly met with Abrams in Washington behind Delvalle's back." The paper treats this as if the vice president of the Republic held a clandestine meeting, in secrecy, as if he had hidden intentions. Dr Esquivel, as I was telling you, there were rumors in Panama that this could be a reason for the Legislative Assembly to summon Dr Esquivel. This was the first question I had for Dr Esquivel when he was commenting about his pleasant trip on Air Panama, and this is not a commercial. He mentioned how pleasant his trip was. I have asked Dr Esquivel a question referring to the issue in which the local and international media are more interested. Dr Esquivel, now that you have seen the newspaper, what can you tell us about the clandestine nature attributed to this meeting?

[Esquivel] This is what I mean when I talk about paranoia: it makes me laugh. I have done nothing clandestine, have never done so in my life. This disinformation makes me laugh. This meeting was held in broad daylight, and all the people interested in this meeting were fully aware of it. However, this [disinformation] tries to imply that someone was caught. Caught doing what? What I have been doing is fulfilling my duty to the people, by getting information, and knowing the views other countries have about us, particularly the United States. This newspaper implies that I went there to plan something with people who have little horns in their heads, this is the id implied by this kind of information, which makes me laugh. [passage omitted]

Moreover, although there is no Panamanian ambassador to Washington at this time, during this situation—I am not fully informed about the current organization of the embassy—I went to Washington, and met with an embassy official and greeted him. What secrecy can there be in a public office? My meeting with Elliott Abrams was not held in a hotel room behind someone's back, it was held at the State Department, in an official office surrounded by all kinds of officials, including a Panamanian Embassy official.

[Jimenez] Was there a Panamanian Embassy official at this clandestine meeting?

[Esquivel] There was no clandestine meeting. He was there discussing this U.S. Government protest of the way a U.S. Embassy official had been arrested. A big part of my

discussion, of my talks with Mr Abrams, was on this matter. Therefore, there is nothing clandestine in this 30 minute meeting I held with Mr Abrams. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] During a previous interview you gave us, you spoke about a transition to democracy and you said it was progressing smoothly, that is, toward the goal of total democratization. However, the events of the last 3 months show that the path to democratization has ended and that some very radical positions have been adopted, not only by the opposition, but also by the government. Concerning the dialogue that several sectors, including the Catholic Church and several political parties have been endorsing, do you feel such a dialogue is possible? Do you feel that the Liberals, not only through their local party, but also through the international organizations that might have some link with some other international organizations of some other parties that might have something to do with Panama, that something could be done to prevent the rift from becoming even deeper, to prevent the violence from running rampant, so that we may return to the path of democracy before we fall into that abyss that you yourself said we could fall into, if we do not return to sanity and put a stop to all these extremes?

[Esquivel] Ramon, we are not going toward the abyss, we are already falling into it. The democratization process is being traumatized and has stopped, there is no doubt about it, but we insist that this is also part of democratization. The transition to democracy is not easy. This is another statement that I have repeated over and over. That is why there is no room for pessimism. There must be firmness, but there must also be optimism. A democratization process is taking place in Panama. In fact, this increasing interest of all the citizens to express themselves, to express their dissatisfaction, is all part of that democratization process. I do have great hopes that we will once again follow the path to democratization. All democratic parties, if they are really democratic, have to take part in this. This includes both official and opposition parties. Because if there is no democracy, no democratic party can function. When the bases of democracy, such as political rights, fundamental rights, the de jure state, citizens' rights, and the state's institutions, are threatened, anything that divides democratic parties is of secondary importance because democracy is essential for development. [passage omitted]

It has been proven that democracy brings development and well-being. Ideologists and economists throughout the world have no doubt that only developed countries can have a democracy. Democracy itself generates development. Not only social and economic development—intellectual development as well, as each citizen finds his place within the freedom of democracy.

I therefore feel, with great optimism, that if we put a temporary stop to this—if the government shows that it wants to establish the basis for a dialogue with the citizens, we will again quickly return to the positive path of democracy and rebuild what has been destroyed. We have already destroyed a great deal in this country with these 3 months of disagreements and disturbances.

[Jimenez] What do you think the government could do to give the impression of being willing to hold a dialogue?

[Esquivel] I believe that both the government and the opposition should stop hurting each other with caricatures, insults, and mutual accusations. [The government should] allow newspapers and all the media to express their ideas, decree a general political amnesty, call together the civic crusade leaders, the Panamanian political party leaders, and Msgr McGrath—representing the church—and discuss the framework [for a dialogue] and then sit down and talk together. First, we need to at least temporarily stop this constant demonstration of citizen disagreements that have us all extremely nervous—extremely depressed—but also blinded. There seems to be no evidence of letting-up by either side, so there is no indication this is going to end. Panama is at stake here, and we are destroying our country. As politicians we all have this responsibility. This is our responsibility as politicians. The generations to come, the Panamanian youths, will be fully entitled to claim that we have destroyed Panama if we do not do what we should do: that is, sit down and talk, with guarantees so that no group can think that the other is simply wasting the other's time, or tripping the other up, or taking advantage of one thing or another. [passage omitted]

[Jimenez] A few minutes ago, you talked about freedom of expression and the need to reopen the news media as one of the ways to start a dialogue. I know that these news media discussed this with some government sectors. However, the government has accused some of those media of exactly the same thing that you mentioned a few minutes ago: that is, of true sedition or wanting to topple the current government. The government has accused them of openly calling for a popular rebellion and the toppling of the government, and of proposing ways to topple the government. In this respect, how would you view the limitations imposed by the law regarding those activities that can be labeled seditious or rebellious that would apply to the news media?

[Esquivel] I have just given you my views on the matter. I feel that so long as there are political parties asking for the overthrow of the government, the government may justifiably do anything within the law. When the idea is to fix things that are wrong, the government would be making a mistake to exaggerate these things and to take advantage of the law to institute a state of repression. Moreover, the government—and I admit this—must accept that we have been experiencing a growing lack of credibility for many years. It must accept that the law itself cannot reestablish the government's credibility, nor can the news media or the opposition. There is a lack of credibility in all sectors. The people do not believe in the opposition parties either. The people do not believe in many of the Civic Crusade members. The people think that these leaders are defending their own interests. In sum, we must go further. We must support the law and do a number of things to ensure

credibility, so the people may begin to believe in someone or some institution in this country.

The law alone is not enough. We must improve it. We must go further. We must hold consultations. We must talk with the people. We must stop that feeling of paranoia that if one meets with this or that person he is a traitor, a seditious person, a traitor to the fatherland, a lackey, or any of the many labels given to people trying to inform themselves or hold a dialogue. We should not close ourselves. We must have a broad view of the country. We must have a sincere and honest interest to settle this problem so that people can make progress, so we can ensure that there is good distribution of wealth, and justice and opportunity for everyone. That is not contained in the law. That is the feeling of a patriot or a Panamanian who truly desires his country's well-being.

[Jimenez] I would like to conclude this very interesting dialogue—and we have been getting many calls about it—with the following question or proposal. In popular sectors, or in leading political, economic, and social sectors, it has been stressed that everything tends to indicate that the solution to the nation's problems lies in a change in the Panama Defense Forces' structures and how this change may relate to U.S. activities; the U.S. may interfere in our country, especially economically. Obviously, the country has been hard hit and will need a great boost and assistance in order to fully recover. Dr Esquivel, how do you feel about this view that tries to depict all of Panama's problems in such simplistic terms?

[Esquivel] The first thing that we have to do is to regain our credibility abroad. This not only refers to the United States. Economically, we depend on the goodwill and credibility of many important countries, like Venezuela. The European countries are concerned about our situation and so are our Central American neighbors. Therefore, economically we are not isolated. We will not be able to grow economically by ourselves. We need the respect, trust, and credit of the countries around us, not just the United States.

Within the context of the East-West struggle, as the hegemonic struggles between the United States and the USSR are known, North-South relations are also important. That refers to our relations with the Northern industrialized powers like the United States, Canada, Europe, etc. However, there should not be any doubt that we are Westeners. We are in the Western sphere. In general terms, our economy is greatly dependent on the status of our relations with the Western economic system. That system is chiefly based on a democratic state. The United States is the West's leader and its major power.

Our relations with the United States should continue to be good. I will not refer to the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Many U.S. politicians have told me that the U.S. Government does not at all intend to prevent Panama from taking over the canal in accordance with the treaties. We must keep in mind, however, that there are reservations in the treaties, called the Concini and Nunn reservations by which the United States has the right to guarantee the canal's operation. In addition, and also in accordance with the treaties, if the canal ceases to operate for technical reasons, the United States can intervene and restore it to normal operation. As for the canal's defense, the United States can have bases in Panama, not only in the Canal Zone, but anywhere in Panamanian territory. We should not be forgetful. We should keep in mind that these Treaties were signed by Torrijos and that they were understood to mean this.

The United States does not intend—and it is not even convenient for the United States, politically speaking—to avoid compliance with the treaties. The canal's neutrality, its operation, and the economic aid that we could get from the Western world in general and the United States in particular also depends to a large extent on the Panamanian people's seriousness, order, and dignity. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Alfonsin, Cabinet Debate Next 2 Years Policies

PY212113 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 Sep 87 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN) Chapadmalal—President Raul Alfonsin yesterday called on senior government authorities meeting in this holiday resort to avoid through all means at their disposal "any sort of social confrontation" during the last two years in office.

Alfonsin and his cabinet yesterday agreed on the need to continue with the fight against inflation "as the only way to achieve not only growth but also social justice."

The need to control the rise in the cost of living was demanded by Labour Minister Ideler Tonelli as a prerequisite for a succesful term at the helm of his portfolio.

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez told reporters that the need to fight inflation was the clearest conclusion arrived at by the Cabinet members and legislators after 48 hours of "intense" debate.

Part of the talks were devoted to the future relationship with the opposition "in order to find basic agreements" for the last two years of this administration.

Lopez pointed out that Alfonsin referred to the need to avoid mistakes committed during the past two years and to press on with the basic proposals drafted when the government took office in 1983.

The spokesman revealed that Tonelli mentioned the fight against inflation as the only way to avoid the continuous erosion of real wages.

As was the case last Saturday, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and his economic team offered detailed information on the economic plan implemented by the government since 1985.

Lopez, who was the only member of the entourage to face journalists, revealed that the functioning of public services was "another important issue" dealt with during the meeting.

Alfonsin reportedly decided to have both Sourrouille and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo analyze future foreign debt negotiations in order to stress the polical aspects of the issue.

In reference to the relation with the opposition, Lopez stressed that Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia would be in charge of laying out the strategy for future talks with the Justicialist and other opposition parties.

Inflation, Opposition Viewed

PY220338 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2120 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin has announced an even tougher battle against inflation, although he explained that no magic solutions must be expected.

After deliberating for 2 days with his ministers and leaders of the Radical Civic Union [UCR], in Chapadmalal, 35 km south of Mar del Plata, Alfonsin expressed hope that Argentina will find solutions in a medium-term period, stating: I am not even saying long-term.

President Alfonsin made these remarks at Camet Airport just before leaving for the metropolitan airport, where he spoke with reporters. On both occasions he referred to the dialogue with the opposition, which he termed excellent.

He said that at the weekend meeting, the officials discussed all problems related to the different ministries, in an effort to become efficient in the tasks we have to carry out. We worked everything out very well, and we hope the meeting will yield good results.

He discarded the possibility of announcing immediate economic measures, and added that the resolutions will be made public in due time. President Alfonsin smiled when asked when the results of the meeting will be announced. He stated: I hope they will be made known soon. Although he explained that no magic solutions should be expected.

He added: As you all know, we have already been granted an interesting rescheduling format in our foreign-debt negotiations. He stated that the position he announced in his 18 September speech has not been changed.

He said Economic Minister Juan Sourrouille and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo will leave this week for the United States to explain the Argentine position, seeking different debt-payment terms and greater support.

Regarding the salary situation, he said: We are experiencing a profound crisis and the economy must be restructured on a fair basis. Efforts must first be made to solve the problems of the poor.

He said he is convinced Argentina will not necessarily find long-term but rather medium-term solutions. We have everything—the natural resources and the human resources—for the country to become what we want it to be.

He discarded the possibility of establishing a de facto parliamentary system of government, but said: Our ministers are going to be there, in Congress, to answer all questions, which he said will be a rehearsal for the parliamentary system.

He said the capital will surely be transferred and the Justicialist Party will not oppose this project because opposing the move would mean repealing a national law, and this would look bad.

He expressed his belief that relations with Peronism will continue to be excellent, and that the UCR leadership will continue to be as good as it has always been, discarding the possibility of any change.

Answering a question, Alfonsin said he would like to meet with Antonio Cafiero, because sharing a government with the opposition would be a valuable experience, and a chance to develop wholesome competition to see who can govern better.

He said that now more than ever, political dialogue, program convergence, and the search for common denominators will be necessary. Finally, Alfonsin emphasized the need for a social agreement in order to do away with the policy of confrontation.

Alfonsin Swears In 5 Secretaries of State
PY230112 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2214 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Sep (TELAM)—During a ceremony this afternoon in the White Room of Government House, President Raul Alfonsin sworn in five new secretaries of state.

They were: Juan Octavio Gauma, interior; Luis Lozano, labor; Enrique Paixao, justice; Alfredo Garofano, coordinator of the Ministry of Works and Public Services; and Oscar Romero, secretary of international economic relations.

Caputo Leaves for UN General Assembly 22 Sep
PY230327 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo made remarks to the press tonight at Ezeiza Airport. At 2200, Caputo left for New York heading the Argentine delegation to the 42d UN General Assembly. [passage omitted]

TV Network Purchases British Film on Falklands
PY230322 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2324 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] The news agency *Press Association* (PA) [preceding name in English] reported today that an Argentine television network has just purchased a British documentary film on the Malvinas war, which will be shown in Argentina without censorship.

The 2-hour film is entitled *The Malvinas War: The Untold Story*. It is the work of Yorkshire Television, and was broadcast in the United Kingdom in April 1987 on the 5th anniversary of the Anglo-Argentine war.

The documentary includes film taken by the Argentine Armed Forces and interviews with military officers and civilians on the war with the United Kingdom over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands, which occurred between 2 April and 14 June 1982.

PA states that the film will be broadcast in Argentina with no cuts or censorship, exactly as it was shown [words indistinct] by the BBC in April 1987.

The documentary film was also sold to television networks in Australia, the Netherlands, Israel, New Zealand, and the United States.

Army Maj Barreiro Tours With Holy Week Video
PY222227 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Former Army Major Ernesto Barreiro is touring the country in an effort to vindicate the Holy Week uprising, and to announce the publication of a paper on the issue. Barreiro has been granting interviews to radio stations and newspapers, and speaking at different forums on the issue. In a press conference in Formosa he said no one attempted a coup during Holy Week. Barreiro added that he is touring the provinces to show anyone who is interested a 32-minute video on the Holy Week incidents. He calls it Operation Dignity.

Barreiro said the Army is in the process of assessment and deliberation. He admitted that pamphlets, banners, and other anonymous publications on the subject have been circulated.

Barreiro stated that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin shares his views on Operation Dignity.

Barreiro also said a paper explaining what really happened during Holy Week is almost ready for publication, and will be released when it is deemed appropriate to do so.

Barreiro, who was a major participant in the Holy Week uprising, repeatedly justified the role of the Armed Forces in the incident.

Regarding the fight against subversion, he said the only mistake of the men who defeated the terrorist gangs was that they did not have a legal counseling apparatus to support the military operations.

Barreiro said no one disappeared. Some people were arrested during military actions, some were sent to jail for criminal activity, and others were released because they were not guilty.

Barreiro said he came to Formosa to show the video tape on the Holy Week uprising. This is the same video cassette that was banned from the barracks by General Caridi. Fourteen officers were reportedly arrested in different barracks for trying to show the film to their subordinates.

During his speech, Barreiro criticized Gen Caridi and the policies of the national government. He also said episodes like those during Holy Week will probably never happen again in the country. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Yungas Voluntary Coca Eradication Plan Begins
PY210144 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0307 GMT 20 Sep 87

[Text] Coroico, Nor Yungas (Bolivia), 19 Sep (EFE)—Today in Coroico, Nor Yungas—92 km north of La Paz—the Bolivian Government began a plan for the

voluntary eradication of coca cultivation with the support of the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB], the Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers [CSUTCB], and coca producers.

Peasant leaders Eugenio Caceres and Antonio Mercado have reaffirmed the Bolivian Peasant Workers want to cooperate with the plan, but added that the government must fulfill all provisions of the agreement signed in June 1987.

Unlike the U.S. Government theory that coca cultivation cannot be eradicated without compulsory and consistent action, the agreement implemented today contemplates the voluntary eradication of coca cultivation in exchange for a $2,000-per-hectare compensation for substitute cultivation, credits for double that amount with a low interest rate of 3 percent, and alternative development projects.

Information Minister Hernan Antelo has stressed the characteristics of the plan, which is being carried out "voluntarily" and "without pressures," unlike other plans in several countries, where "for every 1 hectare that is destroyed, 2 others are cultivated." According to the minister, the plan contemplates the substitution of 15 hectares daily, reaching some 200 hectares by the end of the month, with the support of the "Agroyungas" project, which depends on the UN Fund for Drug Addiction Control (UNFDAC).

Juan Zelaya, leader of the coca producers of Sud Yungas, today stated that the per-hectare compensation that will be paid for coca substitution is "insufficient," but added that the peasants' participation in the plan "shows the willingness of workers who are grouped within top union organizations to fight against drug trafficking." Zelaya said: "Today's agreement comes after the death of many people in the Parotani zone, Cochabamba, and the Yungas "because the workers had opposed forced eradication."

The Nor Yungas zone is not one of the most important coca-production zones, but over the past few years it has suffered the effects of a rapid and progressive change in its economy due to its dependence on coca leaves and on the illegal byproduct, cocaine, according to Anibal Aguilar, the alternate under secretary of development.

Nor Yungas comprises three sections: Coroico, Caranavi, and Coripata, with an area of 5,120 sq km and 80,073 inhabitants, who live under inhuman conditions, which are reflected in the death rate. The infant mortality rate is 150 per 1000, and very few people reach the age of 45.

Officials Praise Program

PY221314 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] Bolivian Information Minister Hernan Antelo has reported that a cocaine factory was discovered near Trinidad. He added that those in charge of the factory fled before authorities arrived. According to the government spokesman, operations against drug trafficking continue and are undoubtedly yielding positive results. Antelo said the reduction of coca farming in Yungas is a historic step.

[Begin Antelo recording, in progress] ...acting in keeping with a proposal promoted by a single country, by a group of countries, if we were acting just to overcome a temporary situation; or if our main objective was to eradicate coca farming at whatever cost, either by destroying the plantations by force, or with tractors. But this is not the case. We are carrying out a long-term program. We want to act with the consensus of the population affected, thereby guaranteeing that this program will be implemented for a long time. [end recording]

Moreover, Anibal Aguilar, health ministry under secretary, has reported that the coca eradication program in Yungas will be expanded soon to the tropical Chapare region in the Cochabamba Department. He added that in view of the meetings that have been carried out with local peasants, there is a willingness to accept the government's proposal through which peasants will be paid an indemnity of $2,000. Aguilar also said authorities must still decide which Chapare towns will be affected by this program. He said this point is being carefully studied by government authorities and Chapare union leaders.

Minister Reacts to Possible U.S. Aid Cuts

PY230115 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran this morning said that with or without money, we are going to struggle against drug trafficking. He added that he is convinced that the national government is conducting an all-out struggle against drug trafficking, and that the U.S. Congress has no reason to say Bolivia is not eradicating coca cultivation. Duran's statement is in response to reports that the U.S. Government will reduce aid to Bolivia by $8.7 million. However, Minister Duran explained that this report is not official. [passage omitted]

Minister Duran pointed out that a reduction of U.S. aid by $8.7 million would seriously affect the country. Duran said: [Begin recording] Undoubtedly, a reduction would mean less money for the struggle against drug trafficking and obviously, this would have a direct impact on the struggle. But I would like to point out that with or without money, we are going to struggle against drug trafficking. [end recording]

Brazil

Abreu Sodre Comments on Meeting With Shultz

PY230024 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Report by correspondent Paolo Paiva Nogueira from New York]

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre today met in New York with U.S. Secretary of State George

Shultz. Their discussion centered on the Brazilian foreign debt. Abreu Sodre re-emphasized that the Brazilian Government cannot pay its debt at the expense of sacrificing its national growth and development. Thus, Sodre said, the debt must be negotiated with a political approach.

[Begin Sodre recording] I met for 35 minutes with Secretary Shultz, at his request. At this meeting, in which I thought we could have discussed many topics, the main and only topics were the Brazilian debt to the United States, to the banks, and to international organizations. This shows that Shultz gives priority to finding a solution to the Brazilian foreign debt.

For this reason, I was satisfied with the results of the meeting because it was encouraging to be able to discuss an issue that is important to Brazil as well as to the United States. [end recording]

Among the various meetings he held today, Abreu Sodre also met this morning with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss the Middle East conflict. Abreu Sodre reiterated that Brazil believes a solution to the Middle East conflict will be achieved only if the Palestinian problem is solved first.

Soviet Ambassador Criticizes Nuclear Program
PY222329 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Sep 87 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—Soviet Ambassador to Brazil Viktor Isakov yesterday criticized the Brazilian decision not to submit its parallel nuclear program to the control (safeguards) of international agencies, such as the IAEA. Brazil is currently reaffirming this decision at the IAEA conference in Vienna. Although Isakov claimed to "share Brazil's pride in the talent and skill of its scientists," he stated:

Top representatives of the Brazilian Government have stated that nuclear energy will be used for peaceful purposes. We believe them and we respect them. But there are international norms that all countries must respect. How can this position be tied to such norms?

Isakov stated that all governments claim to be in favor of peace, but internally they coexist with groups that have other interests, namely the military. For this reason, "control measures have been adopted to eliminate this suspicion, and countries can submit to these norms. The Soviet ambassador added that these international norms—he cited the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which Brazil and other Latin American countries refuse to sign because they consider it discriminatory—do not prevent the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Isakov called a press conference to discuss an article by Mikhail Gorbachev entitled: *Reality and Guarantees for a Secure World*, in which the Soviet leader stresses the new mentality, and the proposals and ways suggested by his government to achieve world security.

He mentioned Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Brazil, which will begin on 28 September, and added that a meeting between Gorbachev and President Sarney is not on the agenda.

Central American Ambassadors Meet in Caracas
PY181351 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Sep 87

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre is meeting with five Brazilian Central American ambassadors in Caracas, Venezuela. The purpose of the meeting is to asses the peace plan agreed upon by Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras. Abreu Sodre spoke about the meeting:

[Begin Sodre recording] Today's meeting in Caracas with the five Central American ambassadors is to evaluate the peace process in the region. We have been receiving conflicting reports and we need an evaluation to be able to make decisions. [end recording]

Another objective of the meeting is to brief the Brazilian delegation that will attend the UN General Assembly in New York next week. The delegation, which is headed by the foreign minister, will discuss the Central American situation with delegations from several other countries.

Yesterday in Caracas, Abreu Sodre was elected vice president of the 13th SELA meeting. The meeting was officially opened today by Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi. Two hundred Latin American and Caribbean delegates attend the meeting.

Senate Committee Approves Bresser Proposal
PY231219 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 87 p 1

[Excerpts] After almost two and a half hours of discussion, Finance Minister Bresser Pereira's proposal on renegotiating the debt, which will be presented to the creditor banks committee on 25 September, was approved by the Senate's Foreign Debt Special Committee. The committee is made up of PMDM, PFL, and PL [Liberal Party] senators. When he left the meeting, to which the press were not invited, Minister Bresser Pereira said: "The senators have given me their firm support."

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, PMDB Senate leader from Sao Paulo; Carlos Chiarelli, PFL leader from Rio Grande do Sul; and Virgilio Tavora, Social Democratic Party Secretary General from Ceara; who are members of the Senate's Committee, unanimously supported the proposal to be made to the banks. According to Chiarelli, the meeting was secret to allow "a frank discussion" between Minister Bresser Pereira and the senators.

The negotiation with the banks will be conducted by Central Bank President Fernando Milliet, and by Fernao Bracher, Finance Ministry Foreign Debt special adviser. The government wants to save Bresser for the last part of the talks, in case his intervention becomes necessary. [passage omitted]

Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre yesterday repeated during his speech at the United Nations that Brazil promises to pay its foreign debt, "as long as this does not hinder growth."

Government Study on Poor Cabinet Performance
PY171840 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Sep 87 p 4

[Text] Investigations conducted by Government Palace officials, with the assistance of the National Intelligence Service (CNI), have shown that the performance of most ministerial Cabinet members can be described as disobedient, individualistic, undisciplined, and lazy. The military ministers, who have proven to be President Sarney's most reliable assistants, have obtained the highest commendations. This information was made available by both Government Palace and SNI sources who said that, as the result of these investigations, the President reached the conclusion that he will have to proceed with another Cabinet reform, beginning late this year. This new reform would give president Sarney the opportunity to remotivate his government, free from the legacy of a political team that was put together practically without his participation, prior to 15 March 1985 when he took over the nation's presidency.

Disobedience in the most minimum details has been detected in the Sarney Cabinet by Planalto Palace officials, and most ministers are guilty of it. Presidential orders, particularly those related to expenditure controls, go unheeded.

Concerned that the government should work more efficiently and that government priorities should be implemented more strictly, President Sarney issued a written order about a year ago, demanding from the ministers a monthly written report on the progress of the main programs in their respective portfolios, noting particular difficulties. Surprisingly, one minister alone, Ronaldo Costa Couto, who was interior minister at the time, complied with this order and submitted his report to the Planalto Palace. According to a presidential assistant, all the other ministers "sat on it" until the order fell into oblivion.

That most of the Cabinet ministers are individualistic has been proven to the Planalto officials by the absence of support that the ministers have received from the Democratic Alliance [Liberal Front Party and Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], particularly from the PMDB. In Congress, rarely has a congressmen taken the floor to defend a minister who had been attacked by the opposition or to defend a specific program of a ministry. Generally, political support for the current Cabinet ministers has been either very weak of nonexistent. Most of the ministers prefer to act alone without seeking any political backing, thereby eroding the government's position.

Finally, the word lazy seems to fittingly apply to the current Cabinet: Most ministers only work in Brasilia the first three days of the week, and the others work only in the afternoon, after 1400.

Chile

Pinochet Discusses Opposition, Plebiscite
PY181434 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Sep 87 pp D1, 2

[Interview with President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte by unidentified *El Mercurio* reporter in Government House on 4 September]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The current political concern, beside the trouble with the universities, is on the plebiscite which will decide who will govern the country in the coming years. How would you define this option to be made by Chileans?

[Pinochet] The options are either to continue to improve on the great government achievements, or to return to the chaos and anarchy which prevailed in the past until the Armed Forces and forces of the order intervened.

[Reporter] Are you optimistic over a possible "yes" result?

[Pinochet] I am sure that Chileans will understand what it means to give the country a democratic system with real participation. I believe that if the majority of the people seriously think of the progress that has been attained in the last 14 years, they will support the candidate proposed by the commander in chief and the Carabineros director general.

[Reporter] Would you say that the country appreciates the government's achievements?

[Pinochet] The country has already done so. That is why it voted yes in the 1980 plebiscite which gave Chile a new constitution. I also feel their support for our achievements throughout the many contacts I have held with citizens in Santiago and other regions. Besides, the people's participation in new institutions and in the economic, social, and cultural system means that they are supporting this process.

[Reporter] And do you think this will motivate these people to vote "yes" in the plebiscite?

[Pinochet] Look, this is a government with real achievements. It is not like other governments which based their programs on promises which they knew beforehand were impractical. Chileans want a participatory democracy for their country, free from totalitarian threats and adventurous statisms. Chileans—he said lowering his tone of voice—have witnessed throughout these years not only the modernization and progress attained by the country, but they have also seen, perhaps unconsciously, their freedoms increase to an extent that if their freedom is now threatened, I am sure they will fight to defend it.

[Reporter] Do you think Chileans are willing to fight for that?

[Pinochet] I am deeply convinced of this because I am sure that given the option between socialism and freedom, the Chilean people will choose freedom. And this government has rescued and strengthened this freedom throughout these years.

[Reporter] Don't you think that there are many people who are afraid of chaos and anarchy?

[Pinochet] Part of the government's task was to replace chaos and anarchy with order and authority.

[Reporter] And do you think, Mr President, of the possibility of a "no" result in the plebiscite?

[Pinochet] All options are possible. But I repeat that I trust that the majority of the people will appreciate the government's achievements and the importance of making it last into the future.

[Reporter] Don't you think that politicians and the opposition could also be an alternative?

[Pinochet] Some of them were not able to do so during the Popular Unity administration. They were not capable of finding a solution to the political conflict that was threatening the country because, among other things, the democratic system was weak in the face of the totalitarian attack.

[Reporter] But in these past years . . .

[Pinochet] In the past few years, the opposition has upheld a wavering, undecisive attitude and it has been unable to produce a serious and realistic political project. Moreover, it has not changed its old demagogic habits which to a great extent caused the collapse of the previous system. This is why the facts show that the opposition is not an alternative to achieve democratic stability.

[Reporter] You have always said that the opposition strategy has failed. Why do you say this?

[Pinochet] Chileans do not believe in the unrealistic slogans promoted by political sectors. All their plans to promote strikes and mobilizations have resulted in the death of Chileans! Do you believe this is the best way to solve problems? [passage omitted]

[Reporter] During your last tour you urged the "National Vanguard" to rapidly expand in order to spread all over the country. Is that the only organized support on which you expect to count?

[Pinochet] I will reiterate something that I think I have already told you. This government has nothing to do with any party or political group. For the government, the only party is Chile and the main source of government support is the great silent majority, who asked for the military intervention, who supported the government in the 1978 referendum, and who approved the Constitution by an overwhelming majority in the 1980 plebiscite.

[Reporter] Don't you then expect organized parties to help in the projection of the regime? Do you expect National Renewal to support the regime?

[Pinochet] Rather than parties, I expect all Chileans who believe in freedom, who want to live in order and peace within a stable democracy that will promote progress and well-being, to undertake the task of projecting the regime themselves.

[Reporter] Is that the reason why you called for the creation of a Civic Front?

[Pinochet] I have mentioned a Civic Front because I wanted to point out that the government does not have any political parties, because the Armed Forces have nothing to do with parties.

[Reporter] Don't you think that parties are important, taking into account that a congress will be elected after the plebiscite?

[Pinochet] Look, political support comes from individuals. Only a small group would give support on ideological grounds. True leaders have always been outside party influence.

[Reporter] Do you think you will have a majority in congress to complete the tasks that are still to be performed?

[Pinochet] You are going too fast. The first thing to do will be to designate a candidate. The plebiscite will come afterwards. Therefore, it is better not to give hasty opinions. I am firmly convinced that the majority of the people do not want to return to the past and that they are perfectly able to identify the sectors that support statism and a Socialist position of retrogression from those that really uphold freedom.

[Reporter] Do you believe that it will be easy to govern during that period?

[Pinochet] Has it ever been easy to govern?

[Reporter] Do you think that the Christian Democratic Party will win the majority in congress? Do you agree with Gabriel Valdes' contention that 45 percent of voters support his party?

[Pinochet] I do not agree with Mr Valdes Subercaseaux. As a matter of fact, in general terms, I have never agreed with the political opinions of this gentleman.

[Reporter] You have always attacked the Christian Democratic Party because it has remained undecided over Marxism. Do you think that a new party leadership could adopt a clearer position?

[Pinochet] I do not expect anything from some politicians. The result of the elections at the teachers' association has clearly shown the position of that party.

[Reporter] A few days ago they approved a document in which they decided to end those pacts . . .

[Pinochet] I have always wanted to see them adopt reasonable positions. If that is the case, I think it is fine.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the aspirations of the government will be hindered if the democratic opposition nominates a candidate to promote the defeat of the plebiscite?

[Pinochet] Despite the fact that the opposition has always tried to raise obstacles against the government, we have moved forward. In addition, not only should the opposition nominate a candidate, but they should also formulate a program of government which I am sure will be a big mixture of ambiguities, because only in this way will all sectors—the domestic sectors and the Communists—be satisfied.

[Reporter] Do you believe that politicians have failed to isolate Communism the way you would have expected?

[Pinochet] Certain political sectors have upheld an attitude that is in keeping with their democratic position. This cannot be denied. They have rejected communism and have struggled against it. But there are others that have upehld a worrisome indefinition in this regard. I am confident that our past experience, and the real threat that Soviet communism poses to free Western countries, will make those who still believe they can include communism in the democratic game ponder.

[Reporter] Up to what point do you believe Article 8 of the Constitution is a suitable weapon to effectively combat communism?

[Pinochet] Look, what we have experienced at the international and national level shows us that society must establish the proper mechanisms to protect itself and to avoid its destruction. Within this context, Article 8 and its complementary regulations give the authorities the proper tools to impede those who promote violence or who aspire to establish a totalitarian regime from succeeding in their objectives.

[Reporter] Isn't this equivalent to practicing a "civic apartheid" as was stated by Bishop Jorge Hourton?

[Pinochet] There is no "apartheid" involved here. Only those who seek to destroy society are segragated from the social regulations that are applied to everyone.

[Reporter] You have said that the projection of the regime is an alternative to chaos and the destruction of society and that you hope to have the support of the majority of the people. Why then have you categorically rejected the possibility of holding an open election?

[Pinochet] It seems that you are forgetting that we have a Constitution that was approved by over 65 percent of the citizenry and that this Constitution establishes that a plebiscite will be held to elect the next Chilean president.

[Reporter] But the Constitution can be amended. Why does the government prefer to hold a plebiscite?

[Pinochet] It is not a question of what the government prefers to do today. The fact is that the government has been entrusted with the people's mandate and this mandate will be fulfilled.

[Reporter] Is it because you have always though of a 16-year term to consolidate the Constitution, as you have recently mentioned?

[Pinochet] I would like to make a statement regarding this point: the present 8-year presidential term is closely tied to the subsequent presidential term in which all those institutions established in the Constitution will be implemented and all the regulations will be enforced. In view of this, it has been established that the next president will be elected through an exceptional system, that is, a plebiscite through which the citizenry will either approve or reject the candidate to be proposed by the commanders of the Armed Forces and the Carabineros corps director general.

[Reporter] Does this mean that it is not an election like all the others as you have said in your recent tours [through the interior of the country]?

[Pinochet] There is a logical continuity between the present term and the following one in which we must consolidate our institutional system. This is why we cannot refer to them as two different government terms, because this is a single stage in which we must consolidate the government which was undertaken when the present Constitution was implemented, that is, in March 1981.

[Reporter] You have said that the appointment of a candidate will be the last decision to be made. What do you think about the fact that even the opposition admits that you are the best candidate for the government?

[Pinochet] Is that what they say?

[Reporter] Some members of the opposition have said this but some of the Armed Forces commanders have said that they prefer to have a civilian candidate. You have kept silent about the entire issue. Will you continue to keep silent?

[Pinochet] In keeping with temporary Constitutional Article No. 27, the candidate must be unanimously proposed by the Armed Forces commanders and the Carabineros corps general director, who, acting as a single body, must disclose this decision at the proper time.

[Reporter] But Admiral Merino has said that they are seeking the ideal candidate . . .

[Pinochet] That is not my problem—he says grinning and adds—:"Why do you ask me about Merino?". . . [punctuation as published]

[Reporter] Is it true that if you are reelected president you will cease to be the Army commander, as was said by [Government Junta Member] General Humberto Gordon?

[Pinochet] But I am not even a candidate yet, and you have already reelected me . . . !

[Reporter] How would you answer a child who asks you why Chile does not change its president?

[Pinochet] I would answer him: Have you read the Constitution, son? And I ask you: do you believe that those countries that change presidents develop more than those that enjoy stability?

[Reporter] But the Western world does not view this in the same way. How do you feel about the permanent international repudiation against Chile?

[Pinochet] I believe that for political reasons, Chile is the target of constant injustice.

[Reporter] Do you think this is caused by a misunderstanding or that there may be some justification for the criticism of the human rights situation?

[Pinochet] There is a deliberate and permanent intention to be biased which becomes obvious when, for example, all the progress that Chile has made regarding human rights is ignored.

[Reporter] Are you worried about the problem with the United States?

[Pinochet] What problem?

[Reporter] About the "Letelier case." If the government does not cooperate in the investigation in this case as it has promised, will it be subjected to pressures?

[Pinochet] Madame, Chile does not tolerate pressure from anyone.

[Reporter] Is it true that "there are very few sticks and carrots" as has been said by U.S. Under Secretary of State Secretary Elliott Abrams?

[Pinochet] The stick and carrot theory is applicable to countries without any dignity or sovereignty. The Chilean Government and its people have shown a strength that is based on their historic tradition and on the noble cause that encourages them. That is why there are no sticks or carrots.

[Reporter] What is your view of the attitude in the past few years of the Catholic Church leadership which has permanently criticized the government?

[Pinochet] Some Church leaders have criticized the government, and have done so publicly. But I would rather attribute some of the criticism to a lack of information rather than to ill faith.

[Reporter] Do you believe it is in keeping with the church's role to urge people to register in the voting lists and to hold civic training seminars as it is doing?

[Pinochet] The church is well-aware of its role. If it had any doubts, I believe Pope John Paul II reminded them during his visit to Chile.

[Reporter] Considering that you are a Catholic, how do you receive the criticism issued by the by the church?

[Pinochet] The political opinions issued by some members of the church do not have to be interpreted as the opinion of the Catholic Church. These opinions could affect me as a government leader but certainly not as a Catholic. [passage omitted]

Judge Prohibits Reporting on Carreno Abduction

PY220152 Santiago Radio Portales in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Military Judge Fernando Torres Silva, who is investigating the abduction of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno, has prohibited further reporting on his abduction.

Reporters interviewed the military judge when he returned to the Military Court following his office hours at the Defense Ministry, where he works every Monday morning.

Judge Torres told the reporters his court has decided to prohibit further reporting on the abduction. He said the decision is aimed at saving Col Carreno's life and at ensuring a successful outcome for the investigations currently under way. [passage omitted]

Judge Torres added that Col Carreno's family and close friends are also prohibited from revealing information about the abduction. [passage omitted]

Judge Torres said he cannot order the suspension of the raids being conducted in various parts of Santiago. He said this decision is up to the garrison commander.

The reporters asked Judge Torres about the suspension of the raids because in the cassette recently released by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, Col Carreno asked authorities to suspend the raids, which he said could put his life in danger.

Judge Torres said the order against reporting on the abduction is intended to last as short a time as possible. He said he hopes the investigation is successful.

Judge Torres concluded by saying he could not report anything new about the investigations into the attack on Pinochet and the discovery of an arms cache in the northern region.

FPMR Releases 4th Communique

PY211538 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0335 GMT 21 Sep 87

[Text] The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), which is keeping Lieutenant Colonel Carreno hostage after kidnapping him on 1 September, tonight released

its fourth communique in the last 20 days.

EFE collected an envelope in the eastern sector of Santiago, similar to other envelops that other media received, in which the FPMR reports that the officer is "in good physical and mental condition." An audio cassette of Carreno's voice was included.

According to the communique, the recording is the same as the one that Carreno's family received.

In the note, the FPMR asks for an end to the search by security and military forces throughout Santiago to try and find Carreno.

According to the officer's relatives, the FPMR does not mention the previously issued pre-conditions for the liberation of Col Carreno, such as the payment of a $2-million ransom, the release of 5 extremists from jail, and the public dissemination of their political demands.

In the recording, Col Carreno asks for an end to the searches, repeating the expression "immediately" twice.

The officer adds that he does not believe that the search parties will find him because he is being kept in a "heavily guarded" place. He adds that he has talked with his captors and has learned aspects of the Chilean reality previously unknown to him.

Together with the fourth communique and the cassette, the FPMR issued a note which lists a series of terrorists acts recently implemented, including acts of sabotage, destruction of power pylons, attacks on police barracks, and clashes with military units in the south of the country.

PCCh's Corvalan Addresses Communist Youth

PY182353 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Sep 87 p C5

[Text] In a message addressed to the JJCC [Communist Youth]—which commemorated its 55th anniversary—Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] Secretary General Luis Corvalan said the PCCh cannot be excluded from any truly democratic project in Chile.

Corvalan's message was read during a ceremony held by a labor union in southern Santiago. The ceremony was attended by a large number of opposition youths.

PCCh leader Jose Sanfuentes said "the ceremony was held in a joyful atmosphere of unity among all the youth sectors that attended." European and Latin American legislators from various parties attending an international meeting in Chile were also invited.

In his message, Corvalan said, "the PCCh is proud of the Chilean youth's struggle for the noble cause of freedom and for the Communist youth contribution to this struggle.

He added that "the 55th anniversary of the JJCC is celebrated at a difficult time. The country is jeopardized by the regime's attempt to remain in power for an indefinite period. Therefore, the unity and mobilization of the opposition is an urgent taks."

Concerning the election registries, Corvalan said: "Even though they may be really significant as an instrument in the struggle against the dictatorship, the essential and most important thing is the resolute struggle of the masses and the unity, without exclusions, of all democratic sectors."

"Imperialists, the oligarchy, and the bourgeoisie do not really want democracy. They want the continuity of the regime. We, the Communists, do not accept either Pinochet or Pinochetism without Pinochet. We want freedom and democracy for Chile," he added.

"We are not, and we do not intend to be, arrogant. Yet no one should forget that the PCCh is deeply rooted in Chilean society. The PCCh is essential for the working class, a sector that cannot be left aside in a truly democratic project."

Corvalan also referred to the unity among all the democratic sectors "against the ominous Article 8 and against the lawsuits affecting Clodomiro Almeyda and the independent press."

Corvalan also advocated "the struggle by the opposition against the fraud of the plebiscite and for free elections."

Ecuador

Guayaquil Police Retirements Cause Unrest

PA230018 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2252 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] Quito, 22 Sep (EFE)—A strong unrest, called an "uprising" by some radio stations, took place today in a police regiment in Guayaquil, according to reports confirmed by EFE in this capital's government palace. The situation was caused by the government's decision yesterday to order the retirement of 10 police corps generals with the resulting promotion of lower ranking officers.

The police unrest, the consequences of which cannot yet be determined, is centered in police regiment No 2 in Guayaquil, the nation's largest city.

Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero traveled from Quito to Guayaquil, where he arrived at 1315 local time to learn more about the situation. "They are playing with fire," the president told the news media, which had asked him about the police situation upon his arrival at Guayaquil Airport. Government and Justice Minister Luis Robles Plaza, among other government officials, accompanied the president, with whom he traveled from the airport to the Guayas Province Government House, where they will meet top police officials.

In Quito, news sources reported that the situation in the main police headquarters, called El Bosque, is completely normal.

General Milton Andrade Davila replaced General Luis Suarez Landazuri as chief of Ecuadoran national police.

The retired police officers signed a public communique last Friday in support of their minister, Luis Robles Plaza, who was called to a parliamentary inquest—or a "political trial," as it is called in this country by most opposition legislators in Congress.

Congress President Jorga Zavala, a social democrat and an opposition legislator to the conservative government of Leon Febres Cordero, announced that top police officers will be accused of "conspiracy" against the state.

The so-called police "uprising" followed this event, and it has been announced that President Leon Febres Cordero will explain the situation to the country over the news media today.

The worsening of the political situation in Ecuador has taken place on the same day that four quakes measuring 4 and 5 on the Mercalli scale rocked the country, causing 3 deaths, several casualties, and an undetermined amount of damage.

Armed Forces Issue Communique

PA230011 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2315 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Report by Mayra Clavijo]

[Text] The Armed Forces have just issued the following communiques: In view of the fact that false rumors are circulating and alarming the people, we hereby restate that the Armed Forces are engaging in their normal activities in an atmosphere of normalcy, peace and tranquility. The Armed Forces support, as they have said before, the Constitution and the legally constituted government.

A second communique issued by the Armed Forces says: In view of the emergency resulting from today's quakes, the Armed Forces have ordered military posts located in the areas affected by the quakes to provide help and assistance to civilians until the situation returns to normal.

These were the communiques issued a few minutes ago by the Armed Forces. They support the Constitution and the government, and will provide help to the persons affected by today's quakes.

National Police Issue Communique

PA230155 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Report by Humberto Janon of Radio Caravana in Guayaquil]

[Text] We have a news bulletin issued by the National Police's top-level officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops. The bulletin states, among other things, that the National Police reaffirms its previous communique, which states that if the government minister is brought to a political trial, then the National Police is also being brought to trial. The communique adds that if the government minister is unjustly punished, then the National Police force is also being unjustly punished. In other words, the communique reasserts what its previous communique stated to the nation some days ago. Therefore, we will repeat the contents of the communique issued by the National Police's top-level officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops:

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker—broadcast in progress] . . . respect the Constitution of the Republic and the state's authority; and we are fully aware that we cannot rebel because of our constitutional duties. Likewise, we are quite sure that we will fulfill our duties to the utmost degree, and will guarantee order, peace, and security for our citizens. We are human beings and cannot allow anyone—no matter how important he is—to discredit the duty to fight terrorism, drug trafficking, and crime, particularly if that person discredits someone for political reasons. We will always remain alert to fulfill our mission.

The fulfillment of our duty has been [words indistinct] perpetrated by a member of our Armed Corps; and the officers who may have broken the law will be judged and punished according to the Republic's general and special laws, and we must respect and enforce those laws. Any legal violation should not be attributed to the Armed Corps as a whole or to the government minister, who, in representing us, has strictly abided by all the norms.

Therefore, the 16,000 men who comprise the National Police pledge our full support to Luis Robles Plaza, minister of government and police. Consequently, we have decided to share his fate. If he is brought to a political trial, then we will be brought to a political trial. If he is unjustly criticized, then we will be unjustly criticized. If he is the victim of unjust punishment, we—the National Police as a whole—will be the victims of unjust punishment.

Thus, our friends, we conclude this communique issued by the National Police's top-level officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops.

Minister Robles Statement

PA230255 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 0136 GMT 23 Sep 87

[Statements by Ecuadoran Government Minister Luis Robles Plaza from the Libertadores Room of the Guayaquil Government Palace—live report by Radio Caravana from Guayaquil]

[Summary from poor reception] Ecuadoran Government Minister Robles Plaza addresses the nation and particularly the members of the Ecuadoran police department. "Today, Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero, the commander of the national police department, and I

talked about certain unrest in the police department." Minister Robles Plaza states that the National Congress might discuss the possibility of putting him on political trial.

He mentions the attitude of the national police in the face of "the permanent aggression against those who participated in or were responsible for an alleged and permanent violation of human rights."

"They accuse me of being an irresponsible official. Guayaquil knows me and the country does too. They know that I am a competent man." He adds that "the country and particularly Guayaquil know that I am not capable of committing a crime."

"The president of the Republic came with the intention of requesting serenity from the national police. We respect the Constitution and the continuation of the country's democracy."

Minister Robles Plaza states that the national police have not committed misdeeds. The police have tried to restore tranquility and security to all Ecuadoran citizens. [crown cheers]

Minister Robles Plaza reiterates that he supported the struggle of the police against terrorism and that terrorists know that he is not afraid of them.

"Compatriots, I tell you that I do not want to surrender. Today amidst the people from Guayaquil I declare: Does the Congress believe that I will resign? No."

"I have tried to maintain maximum harmony and flexibility between the two functions of the state." Robles Plaza talks about the proper time to offer guarantees to all sectors including the most fervent government opponents to form a national commission to discuss a possible solution.

"The president of the Republic intends to maintain public tranquility and stability." Minister Robles Plaza concludes saying that the Ecuadoran president requests the stabilization of the situation. "Thank you for your presence." [crowd shouts *vivas*]

Earthquake Kills 3 in Tungurahua Province

PA221955 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1817 GMT 22 Sep 87

[Text] Quito, 22 Sep (EFE)—Three persons were killed as a result of this morning's earthquakes in Ecuador, according to the civil defense in the first official report issued to the country. The three deaths occurred in Tungurahua Province, in whose capital, Ambato, three people were also injured. The only dead person who has so far been identified was 52-year-old Teresa Yambo, who was apparently killed when a building collapsed.

According to the geophysical institute, the tremors occurred at 0844 and 0845 (1344 and 1345 GMT) with an intensity of 4 to 5 on the Mercalli scale. Their epicenters were located in the Los Guacamayos mountain range, 90 km northeast of Quito. "The movements were oscillatory and tectonic in origin," a spokesman of the institute reported, thus ruling out a possible volcanic origin of the tremors.

To this data released by the geophysical institute of the Quito Polytechnical University, it must be added that the epicenter was at a depth of 11 km under the earth's surface, something that the institute described as "very slight." The institute reported that two other tremors measuring close to 4 on the Mercalli scale occurred at 1048 and 1122 (1548 and 1622 GMT). The new tremors were described as "aftershocks" by the institute spokesmen, who minimized the danger and asked the population to remain calm.

In addition to Ambato, several important towns of Ecuador's central mountain area are located in a 100-km area around the epicenter of the tremors. These include Riobamba, Latacunga, Puyo, Baeza, and Tena. According to radio reports monitored in Quito, there has been damage in all those towns.